

United front by Cabinet, Leyland and 21 unions to break strike

Leaders of Leyland's tool room strikers yesterday defied an ultimatum from the management ordering them to return to work by Monday or face dismissal. The ultimatum received the full backing of the Cabinet and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. But Mr Roy Fraser, leader of the unofficial strikers, said there would be no breaking of the ranks. Skilled men inside and outside Leyland who had offered help would be approached for their full support. About 400 Rolls-Royce tool-room workers will support them with a 24-hour strike today.

Tool room men threaten to defy 'go back or be dismissed' ultimatum

Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

British Leyland is to reopen its 100,000 car production on Monday in a desperate gamble to avert a government-backed ultimatum from the tool-makers' union. The ultimatum, which demands a 10% pay rise and a 40-hour week, was issued yesterday. The company's management has threatened to dismiss any worker who fails to return to work by Monday.

The Cabinet has approved a formula for reopening the Leyland plant. The 21 unions with members employed by the company, it provides for a reopening of the car plants on Monday where 100,000 men have been laid off because of the toolmakers' strike, now in its fourth week.

If the strikers do not return to work by Monday, the company will be put out of business. The company yesterday gave a positive declaration that it would initiate a phased programme to eliminate wage anomalies so that all men would receive the same rate in all the 37 car plants. The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions accepted that the company's wage grievance. The unions will not support any striker who refuses to go back.

The unofficial tool room committee said the strike intends to defy the ultimatum and is calling on other skilled workers outside British Leyland to support them. After the strikers' treatment of their union leadership the committee said, "The company's management is undertaking a big communication exercise to break the strike."

In a statement of unprecedented severity the board of British Leyland said yesterday: "There is now very little time left for Leyland Cars to turn to normal working and thus old management is reviewing the old plan. A drastic review of the Leyland Cars plan. As the National Transport Board, endorsed by the Government, has stated, such a review will result in a cut in investment in substantial unemployment."

But the Government said last night that there would be a review of the company's operations even if the ultimatum succeeds. While welcoming the company's decision to end the dispute and wishing it success, the Government said: "The Government will be reviewing the situation of British Leyland in the light of the current economic situation."

When the Government said last night that there would be a review of the Leyland Cars plan, it was a dramatic move which will depend on speed with which full production is resumed. If there is a full resumption of work on Monday, which is unlikely, it will take six weeks to reach full production and the firm's target of 100,000 cars a week set by the Government.



Mr Roy Fraser, the strikers' leader, yesterday: "No breaking of ranks."

involving managers and shop stewards to drive home the gravity of the situation and explain the reasons for the union-management agreement to open the strikebound plants.

"There can be no justification for the action to be continued," he said. "It is encouraging to find complete unity of purpose between management and the full executive of the CSEU. We emphasize with all the vigour we can that we do hope that the toolmakers will now accept the very clear advice that has been issued by the accredited officials."

No such response came from the 11 members of the tool room committee. Mr Roy Fraser, chairman, said yesterday: "We do not think there will be any breaking of our ranks. We can envisage a situation whereby the company will call in contract labour and try to get supervision to undertake the necessary skilled work."

We will now call upon all skilled men who have offered to assist us within British Leyland and outside British Leyland for their full support."

"We are still convinced that our case is just and we will seek reaffirmation of support from the members we represent." All 63 tool room shop stewards are being called to a meeting in Birmingham today.

A mass meeting of the strikers on the lines of last Friday's gathering, where Mr Scanlon's peace overtures were rejected out of hand, is planned for later in the week.

Mr Fraser added: "We are now running into a type of industrial relations attitude of the 1930s. This will affect every worker in this country if Leyland management succeeds in this type of coercion. It is a disaster for Leyland. I think by sacking three thousand toolmakers they are creating this situation."

Leyland managers hope that enough tool room men will turn up for work on Monday to restart the production lines at most plants. Production workers have shown willingness to cross the strikers' picket lines, and one divorced from the heavy atmosphere of mass meetings, it is argued, many of the toolmakers will want to return to their jobs.

The company is conscious of the "political overtones" of prolonging the dispute, and sought ministerial approval for their initiative from Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment. The ministers gave it their blessing.

Sympathy strike: About 400 tool room workers in Rolls-Royce plants in Derby and Leicestershire said yesterday that they would hold a one-day strike today in support of the Leyland strikers.

Callaghan warning, page 7
Leading article, page 2
Business News, page 21

Councils get restricted power to run lotteries

By Marcel Berlins

From May 1 local authorities will have the power for the first time to promote lotteries. Charitable, sporting, cultural and other voluntary societies will be able to promote lotteries on a larger scale than at present.

The commencement order bringing into operation the regulations governing such lotteries was published yesterday.

The Association of District Councils said the new law was "not enough and too late". Some local authorities would welcome it, but money raised through the lotteries would be "a drop in the ocean" and would not ease the rates.

The Association of County Councils said many councils would not find it worth the effort.

Local authorities will be entitled to promote lotteries for any purpose for which they have the power to incur expenditure. In general, it is expected that they will be used for relatively small-scale projects.

Lotteries promoted by both local authorities and independent societies will be subject to some restrictions. The price of tickets must not exceed 25p, and the maximum prize money will be limited.

For short-term lotteries, held more often than once a month, the maximum value of a single prize will be £1,000. A medium-term lottery, held at intervals of between one and three months, will be able to give £1,500 for a single prize, and those held less frequently will be allowed £2,000.

There will also be limits on the total value of tickets sold: £10,000 for a short-term lottery, £20,000 for a medium-term and £40,000 for others.

Lotteries must not account for more than half of the proceeds of the lottery, and expenses will also be restricted.

When a society wants to promote a lottery it will have to register with the local authority and possibly also with the Gaming Board. All local authority schemes have to be approved by the board.

The regulations prohibit the selling of lottery tickets in licensed betting offices, bingo and gaming clubs, amusement arcades and vending machines. GBCs disappointed: Mr Hilary Harrington, deputy leader of the Greater London Council, said last night that sums involved were derisory. The GBC could operate a lottery every three months with big prizes of £50,000, £25,000 and £10,000. "And we could deliver £100,000 into public funds at the same time," he said.

Dr Shtern is released from jail as KGB seizes Jewish activist

Moscow, March 15.—The KGB today seized Mr Anatoly Shcharansky, a Jewish activist, who was accused with two other Jews of working for American Intelligence by the Government newspaper *Izvestia* earlier this month.

The move came within two hours of official news that Dr Mikhail Shtern, a Jewish doctor, whose trial on bribery charges in 1974 aroused a wave of protests abroad, was being released.

Mr Shcharansky, a member of an unofficial group monitoring Soviet implementation of the Helsinki accords, was pushed into a car by police as foreign reporters watched.

Mr Shcharansky, aged 29, was accompanying two American reporters from the apartment building where he has been staying with Mr Vladimir Slepak, a fellow Jewish activist, when the KGB moved in.

Mr Slepak has also been accused by *Izvestia* of working for the CIA. The reporters had gone to the apartment to discuss the release of Dr Shtern.

Just a week ago Dr Shtern's wife met Western correspondents to make a plea for her husband's release. It was Mr Shcharansky who arranged the meeting and acted as an interpreter for her.

Reporting the release of Dr Shtern, Tass said that the Ukrainian Supreme Court had reduced the original sentence of eight years to two years nine months, the time he had already spent in detention. He was released yesterday.

The court found that Dr Shtern was correctly sentenced, but it acted from "socialist humanism".

Dr Shtern, contacted by telephone at his home in Yimirts, said he was sure support from abroad had helped to secure his release. He rejected the bribery charges on which he was jailed and maintained his innocence.

"I am absolutely not guilty of anything. The accusations of bribery and swindling are the most primitive canardage for the real reason for my arrest—the emigration of my children (to Israel)", he said.—Reuter and AP.

Jewish fears, page 7



Dr Mikhail Shtern: Western support helped.

Moscow allows hijack Boeing to make landing

By Our Foreign Staff

A Spanish airliner, hijacked by Luciano Porcari, an Italian gunman, was headed for Moscow early this morning. The Soviet authorities had given permission for it to land, according to the Spanish Ambassador in Moscow.

The aircraft, believed to be still carrying 12 passengers and six crew, was hijacked on Monday while flying from Barcelona to Majorca. It had since made "refuelling stops" in Algiers, Athens (Ivory Coast), Seattle and Turin and had twice landed in Zurich.

In Abidjan Senor Porcari collected his three-year-old daughter by an Ivory Coast mother, but in Turin his estranged Ethiopian-born wife, Isabella, refused to hand over their five-year-old daughter, Consuelo, in exchange for the hijacked passengers.

Yesterday the hijacker released 14 of the passengers and one crewmember in Zurich and Turin.

Iberia Airlines said in Madrid that Signor Porcari had promised that Moscow would be the last stop and that he would let the passengers disembark there and give himself up. However, the short-range Boeing 727 would have to refuel before reaching the Soviet capital.

Photograph, page 6

Greeks hold plane spotters from London

From Mario Modiano, Athens, March 15

Five aircraft spotters from London were being interrogated by Athens security police and intelligence officers today on suspicion of espionage.

They were arrested at Athens airport last night as they prepared to board a flight to London.

The five men, the oldest among them aged 28, are Kieron Andrew Pilbeam, Roy Leonard Surges, Christopher John Knox, Christopher James Taylor, and Timothy Dennis Blyth-Spearman.

The Greek police said the men were found in possession of lists of numbers of military aircraft as well as sketches of aircraft and possibly of runways.

In view of tensions with Turkey, Greeks are particularly sensitive about foreigners prying into their military secrets.

Further rise in price of petrol likely

Roger Vielvoys, Energy Correspondent

Shell, Britain's biggest oil producer, will prompt a new round of price rises of oil, price rises of week with an application to the Price Commission for an increase of 2p a gallon. The increase will be the middle of the month.

All the oil companies have been paying more for their oil since the middle of January but the depressed state of the market has prevented them from applying for increases to cover increased costs.

Shell has made its application, probably early next week, the other oil companies, including BP, are expected to follow with similar applications. That basis price rises will be implemented in the middle of the month.

It will be the fourth increase in fuel prices within eight months, and many executives in the industry fear that the increase will lead to a further slump in the demand for oil.

The proposed increase will be the average price of four-petrol to 85p a gallon, but variations of up to 10p a gallon in prices throughout the country, average prices for oil are largely meaningless.

Large differences result in the special discounts still in some retailers by oil companies.

When prices last rose, in January, Shell decided to expect petrol from the increases. There is no indication whether it will be repeated, although industry sources think it unlikely.

The fierce competition that has in the petrol market has led to the industrial sector. British Gas Corporation has been selling. Prices for gas, electricity, and the oil companies fear that the proposed new price increase may put an even larger change.

Consumers from Nine back Britain in war on food prices

From David Cross, Brussels, March 15

Representatives of the European Community's 260 million consumers today called for a price freeze on basic foodstuffs which are in surplus, like cereals, butter, milk and sugar.

It was "absurd" they argued, to increase prices for these products when such large surpluses existed and when "expensive and unfair" ways of disposing of them had to be found.

The appeal was communicated personally to Mr John Silkin, the British Minister of Agriculture and acting president of the EEC's Council of Ministers, in Brussels today by the European Bureau of Consumer Organizations.

It was the first time that the president of the EEC's Council of Ministers had met a delegation from the bureau—a consortium of European consumers' associations.

During their 30-minute meeting with Mr Silkin, before ministers of the Nine resumed negotiations over this spring's farm price review, the representatives said they found it impossible to explain to housewives the practice of exporting Community food at subsidized prices to countries like the Soviet Union. The bureau was also opposed to the practice of restricting consumers' freedom to choose cheaper or more suitable alternative foods.

These views are close to those voiced by the British Government during this year's price fixing negotiations. Mr Gavin Strang, the Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, argued forcefully today that even a modest 3 per cent rise in dairy prices in the autumn, as suggested by the European Commission, was over-generous.

In a forceful attack on the Community's chronic dairy surplus, he said that for the EEC to spend 2,000 million units of account (about £1,140m) a year on supporting dairy farmers was "a monstrous misuse" of its resources.

However, the British are alone in calling for a price freeze on dairy products. Most other members would prefer an increase higher than the Commission has so far been willing to concede. There are also considerable divergences among the Nine over other suggested measures to reduce dairy production, like a ban on investment aids, and the payment of premiums to farmers who refrain from marketing their surplus.

The Nine are also divided over the Commission's suggestions for trimming the so-called "green" currencies, the units in which Community farm prices are calculated. Indeed this will probably be the most difficult part of the price review to resolve.

The ministers are still hoping to complete their deliberations at a final marathon meeting in Brussels in 10 days' time, so that the new prices can take effect from April 1.

UDR man shot dead in front of children

Criticism of the "Ulsterization" of the Government's security policy in Northern Ireland will be voiced today by a Police Federation delegation and "loyalist" MPs who are concerned about renewed IRA attacks on locally recruited members of the security forces. A UDR man was shot dead in front of his children in one of the latest attacks. Another UDR man was seriously wounded and an RUC constable was injured in other shootings. Page 4

Earthquake survivor was buried 10 days

Mr Sorin Crainic, aged 29, survived 252 hours without food or water buried in the rubble of a Bucharest building after the Romanian earthquake. He was rescued after a search party heard a noise when a brick was moved, and was discovered trapped in a basement corridor. He escaped without a scratch but was suffering from shock and dehydration. Page 9

Lord Chelmer to go

Lord Chelmer, who has been senior treasurer of the Conservative Party for more than 11 years, has told Mrs Thatcher that he wants to resign. He is 62. He is in conflict with Mr Alastair McAlpine, appointed as a party treasurer by Mrs Thatcher in 1975, but, privately, he disagrees with Lord Thorneycroft and other party leaders on state financing of political parties (Our Political Correspondent writes).

Aircraft Bill agreed

The Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill, the controversial legislation to nationalize the aircraft and shipbuilding industries, completed its final parliamentary stage peacefully and without division in the Commons yesterday. Parliament, page 14

Song contest curb

BBC cameramen plan to prevent the Eurovision song contest from being held elsewhere in Europe. Britain withdrew as hosts because a cameraman's dispute led to fears that the programme would be blacked. Page 2

Bishop of Ripon dies

The Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev Stuart Hestley Price, who announced his impending resignation because of ill health a week ago, has died at his home, Bishop Mount, Ripon. He was 54 and was appointed to Ripon last year. Obituary, page 18

Pension equality

Sex discrimination in pension schemes in respect of contributions, benefits, options and arrangements for the preservation and transfer of benefits would be outlawed under proposals issued by the Government. Page 2

Anglo-US alignment

Mr Callaghan told the House of Commons yesterday that on all main issues Britain and America were following similar paths since his cordial meetings with President Carter in Washington. For the Conservatives Mrs Thatcher welcomed the renewed emphasis on the "special relationship". Page 8

75% of the self-employed are probably paying too much tax.

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HOME NEWS

UDR man killed by gunmen in front of children

From Christopher Walker

A member of the Ulster Defence Regiment was killed and another was badly wounded in an ambush in Northern Ireland yesterday. A constable in the RUC was wounded in another attack.

These latest attacks on locally recruited members of the security forces underline criticism which the Police Federation will voice today with Mr Mason, Secretary of State, about the Government's continuing "Ulsterization" of its security policy.

Mr Mason will travel to London later for a meeting between the Prime Minister and a delegation of United Ulster Unionist MPs at Westminster. They will seek to put pressure on the Government for tougher measures against the Provisional IRA.

The UDR man who was killed was Mr David McQuillan, aged 33. He was waiting for a lift to work at Bellaghy, co Londonderry. Two of his three children were standing close by waiting for their school bus.

Suddenly a hijacked car stopped in the narrow main street and two men with rifles jumped out. Mr McQuillan began to run but after a few yards he fell wounded to the ground. One of the terrorists then fired several rifle shots into his body at point-blank range.

The children, a boy and a girl, watched the whole incident from the other side of the road. According to one witness Mr McQuillan's son, aged 12, ran to try to help his father, but he was already dead.

Twenty miles away, at Coal-

island, another UDR man arrived at his work to find two masked Provisional IRA gunmen waiting for him. They had tied up four members of the staff and as he entered the room they fired a revolver and a shotgun filled with buckshot. The man was struck several times. He was seriously injured.

In the third incident shots were fired from a passing car at an RUC constable on duty outside the court house in Magherafelt. He was not seriously injured.

In Belfast the Provisional IRA said a section of the city's main hospital, the Royal Victoria, was now regarded as a legitimate target. It said it was being used for undercover army surveillance but the Army denied that.

The Rev Ian Paisley, MP for Antrim, North, last night threatened a Unionist boycott of Westminster and a withdrawal of the party's vital parliamentary support for the Government.

Speaking on Ulster television, he said: "I do not think my vote will ever again be going with the Government, and I will be seeking to persuade my colleagues not to give their votes any further to it. For this government has completely betrayed the people of Northern Ireland."

Bishop's attack: The Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Dr Eames, said at the funeral in Castlederg, co Tyrone, of Constable William David Brown, aged 19, that there was a concerted attempt to undermine the RUC (the Press Association reports). Constable Brown was shot dead in an IRA ambush.

Businessman's widow hits at IRA sympathizers

From Our Correspondent

York

Mrs Betty Nicholson, the widow of the latest businessman to be murdered in Belfast by the IRA, spoke bitterly yesterday of the trip from which her husband, James, failed to return.

"I had always been worried about him getting caught in the crossfire or a bombing over the three years he has been making regular trips out there. When I was told the news I was very upset. But this morning I am very bitter. I don't want his death wasted."

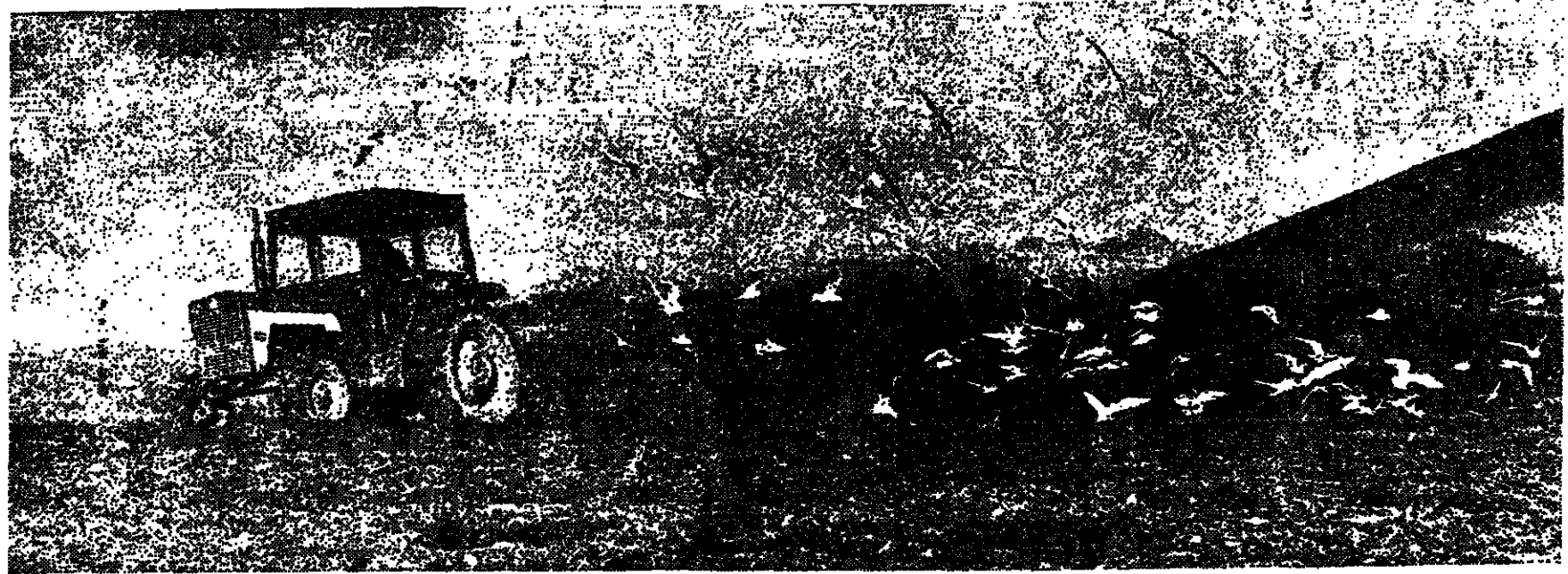
"I feel bitter because I have seen people on the extreme left of the Labour Party getting on the same platform as the IRA."

As a result of this I am now widowed with two young children to look after.

"I wish the four thugs who murdered my husband had been present when I told my children this morning," she said at her home at Fereusby, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. "The IRA sympathizers are traitors and should be shown up for it."

Mrs Nicholson, aged 32, whose children are nine and 11, believes the IRA got the wrong man when they shot her husband, who was a partner in a London public relations agency. It was the first time he had travelled in a company car from Strathern Audio, the company he had been dealing with.

She said he usually took a taxi.



Gulls following the plough at Seaton Hall Farm, Cumbria, where hard ground after the drought delayed ploughing.

Annual quota for night jet flights to end

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The Government is to replace its system of annual quotas for the number of night jet flights from Heathrow and Gatwick airports. London, with a long-term strategy, Mr Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary for Aviation, told the Commons yesterday.

That would give local people some assurance about the future and would provide the aviation industry with a basis for planning and shaping its operations, he said in a written reply.

A consultative document asking for views that would help the Government to reach a decision on the strategy to be adopted is being sent out to MPs, local authorities, amenity groups, the aviation industry and other interested bodies. They have until May to comment.

The document indicates that there would be two ways of achieving the Government's objective of progressively reducing night noise disturbance.

The first option was a progressive reduction in the number of permitted night flights, leading to complete closure of the airports at night, except for emergencies.

In the industry's view, based on 1975 prices, the likely annual net cost to British airlines would be at least £3.35m at Gatwick, and more at Heathrow. The impact of the air transport industry could be lessened by a transitional period of between five and 10 years.

The second option would involve the introduction and progressive tightening of a structure of restrictions linked to the noise levels of particular aircraft, favouring the quieter aircraft, and gradually phasing out the noisier ones.

That would provide operators with an incentive to phase out their noisier aircraft more quickly than they might otherwise have done, and would have the added bonus of reducing daytime disturbance as well.

Under that option, once the noisier aircraft were phased out, there would be "a dramatic shrinking" of the area exposed to noise levels above the threshold of awakening.

The Government is also seeking views on the hours of the night period, the possibility of relating airport charges at night to noise, and a system of runway alternation.

The consultative document says that since 1974 permitted summer night jet movements have been reduced by 35 per cent at Heathrow and 25 per cent at Gatwick. Quotas for the winter period to March 31 have been cut by 30 per cent at Gatwick and 15 per cent at Heathrow.

"The relationship between sleep disturbance and aircraft noise is complex, imperfectly understood, and varies from one individual to another," the document says. "The predominant factor in determining the probability of awakening seems to be the noise levels of individual aircraft, rather than their frequency."

Sea shocks may boost lobster catch

From Martin Huckerby

Edinburgh

An experimental method of catching Norway lobsters by giving them electric shocks is being developed by the Marine Laboratory at Aberdeen as part of a study of the commercial use of electricity for fishing.

The hint that the Government may be seeking to discourage less able pupils from staying on, a move that would arouse protests among socialists, came in a speech by Mr Oakes, Minister of State for Education and Science, in a speech to a conference of industrial training managers.

To make continued full-time education seem the norm might be encouraging unrealistic career aspirations," in some cases, he said. Some of those in the sixth form or on academic degree courses might have been better off going straight to work at 16.

TUC officials are puzzled by the speech, which appears to run counter to the view hitherto taken by the Government that pupils should be encouraged to improve their qualifications. They cannot believe that the Government is to abandon one of the fundamental assumptions of Labour's social philosophy, the continuing expansion of educational opportunity. They have pointed out that the relevant remarks were not included in the text of the speech issued by Mr Oakes's department.

Mr Roy Jackson, the TUC's education spokesman, said yesterday that the general council's view should be apparent from the fact that it was considering a new approach to Mrs Williams, Secretary of State, to ask that the maintenance grants in question should be made mandatory. At present they are subject to a means test and the number has been falling steeply as wages have risen.

When we raised the subject with Mrs Williams's predecessor he did not question the desirability of encouraging more pupils to stay on, but only whether mandatory grants were the best way of achieving it," Mr Jackson added.

Mr Alan Evans, education officer of the National Union of Teachers, described Mr Oakes's remarks as a personal view. "There is no evidence that full-time education ever did anyone any harm, and in view of what is happening in other advanced Western countries it seems premature to talk of discouraging sixth-form expansion when only 34 per cent of the age group stay on beyond school-leaving age," he said.

The TUC is also soon to ask Mrs Williams and Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, to announce their commitment to legislation to compel employers to give workers time off to attend education courses.

Mr Jackson said: "We believe that even if a date cannot be set, the commitment will bring some moral pressure on employers whose refusal to co-operate is threatening such measures as the vocational preparation scheme."

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Government hint on grants puzzles TUC

By Mark Jackson, of The Times Educational Supplement

The TUC is to increase its pressure for maintenance grants for all pupils who want to stay on beyond leaving age, despite a hint that the Government may have turned against the idea.

The hint that the Government may be seeking to discourage less able pupils from staying on, a move that would arouse protests among socialists, came in a speech by Mr Oakes, Minister of State for Education and Science, in a speech to a conference of industrial training managers.

To make continued full-time education seem the norm might be encouraging unrealistic career aspirations," in some cases, he said. Some of those in the sixth form or on academic degree courses might have been better off going straight to work at 16.

TUC officials are puzzled by the speech, which appears to run counter to the view hitherto taken by the Government that pupils should be encouraged to improve their qualifications. They cannot believe that the Government is to abandon one of the fundamental assumptions of Labour's social philosophy, the continuing expansion of educational opportunity. They have pointed out that the relevant remarks were not included in the text of the speech issued by Mr Oakes's department.

Mr Roy Jackson, the TUC's education spokesman, said yesterday that the general council's view should be apparent from the fact that it was considering a new approach to Mrs Williams, Secretary of State, to ask that the maintenance grants in question should be made mandatory. At present they are subject to a means test and the number has been falling steeply as wages have risen.

When we raised the subject with Mrs Williams's predecessor he did not question the desirability of encouraging more pupils to stay on, but only whether mandatory grants were the best way of achieving it," Mr Jackson added.

Mr Alan Evans, education officer of the National Union of Teachers, described Mr Oakes's remarks as a personal view. "There is no evidence that full-time education ever did anyone any harm, and in view of what is happening in other advanced Western countries it seems premature to talk of discouraging sixth-form expansion when only 34 per cent of the age group stay on beyond school-leaving age," he said.

The TUC is also soon to ask Mrs Williams and Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, to announce their commitment to legislation to compel employers to give workers time off to attend education courses.

Mr Jackson said: "We believe that even if a date cannot be set, the commitment will bring some moral pressure on employers whose refusal to co-operate is threatening such measures as the vocational preparation scheme."

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Nearly 18 million vehicles using Britain's roads

By a Staff Reporter

There are nearly 18 million motor vehicles in use in Britain, according to figures for the third quarter of 1976, released by the Department of Transport yesterday.

The number of cars rose to 14,029,000, an increase of 2 per cent on the previous quarter. There was a 5 per cent increase in motor cycles and three-wheelers, and an 8 per cent rise in agricultural vehicles.

The figures show that there are 15,576,000 vehicles in England and 1,144,000 in Scotland, and 878,000 in Wales.

There was a drop of 9,000 (2 per cent) in the number of motor cycles of under 50cc and an increase of 67,000 (11 per cent) in those over 50cc. The number of three-wheelers increased by 5,000. The number of general goods vehicles dropped by 25,000 (1 per cent).

Road casualty figures for January totalled 25,600, an increase of 6 per cent, compared with January a year ago.

In November, December, 1976, and January there were 31,400 casualties, a 6 per cent more than in the same period a year ago. Within that total, deaths (1,760) decreased by 2 per cent, seriously injured casualties (20,900) increased by 1 per cent, and slightly injured casualties (68,800) increased by 8 per cent.

The 1975 and 1976 columns respectively contain 18,000 and 11,000 vehicles not allocated to a country or region.

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Jeweller did not ask for proof of identity

A jeweller's chief buyer did not ask a customer to whom he sold £27,500 of jewellery, for proof of identity because he was under the impression she was a genuine person.

Mr Alan Griffiths, of Asprey's Mayfair, told Knightsbridge Crown Court yesterday that after talking to a woman for about 25 minutes, he "formed an impression that she was a genuine person."

"It's a highly competitive business we are in and people come to us because they trust us," he said. "Consequently we try to give the impression of wanting them. That's why I did not ask for a signature."

He added that one of Asprey's directors did not like asking customers for signatures and said: "It is really a question of confidence and sales."

Mrs Brenda Butler, aged 50, of Lowerdown, Bellingham, charged with dishonestly obtaining a sapphire-and-diamond ring and bracelet set by deception last August.

She is alleged to have bought the jewellery using the identity of Roy Miles, who had an account as Asprey's. The sale was debited to Mrs Miles's account. Later it is alleged, she tried to sell the jewellery to Collingwood's, of Conduit Street, Mayfair, the jeweller.

The court was told that when detectives questioned her she said the jewellery had been delivered to her by an unknown person.

Another Asprey's assistant, Miss Jane Morris, said she had told Mrs Butler that the woman buying the jewellery was not the Mrs Miles she knew.

Mr Jeremy Hutchinson, for the defence, read a telegram said to have been sent to Mrs Butler, which said: "Your situation entirely due to us. It was a bet and alcoholic joke on your part."

The case continues today.

Harwell tries to allay Scots' fears of dumping

By a Staff Reporter

The head of Harwell's environment safety group denied last night that the Atomic Energy Authority is looking for nuclear dumping grounds "in Galloway or anywhere else."

Responding to local opposition to suggestions that radioactive waste might be buried in the area, Dr Francis Feare said at Newton Stewart that the purpose of the research was to determine whether granite, salt formations or clay would be the most stable surroundings for radioactive waste in the form of glass blocks. The AEA says its research will take 10 to 15 years.

So far the AEA has been carrying out a public relations exercise, but applications in drill test bores several hundred feet deep will be made soon. Mr Kyle and Carrick District Council, however, despite the protest of Scram (the Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace), the bores will be at Mullwharchar, a thinly populated area of Strathclyde.

Mrs Morag Williams, secretary of Scram, said yesterday that if the test led to the burying of wastes there could be no guarantee that the granite would remain stable. The campaign's second concern was the very expense of making the bores would become a justification for using them.

The research is part of an EEC-financed programme to determine whether granite, salt formations or clay would be the most stable surroundings for radioactive waste in the form of glass blocks. The AEA says its research will take 10 to 15 years.

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HOME NEWS

Dearer gas defended by Prime Minister

By John Groser

The Prime Minister told MPs yesterday that while they would have the chance to debate the Government's decision to allow a rise in gas prices, it was not a rise in gas prices, it was a rise in the price of the economic package as a whole. He was replying to Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, who had asked why the Government was prepared to allow a breach of the price code.

While Mr Callaghan was defending his Government's economic policy a delegation from the National Consumer Council was discussing the consultative document on prices policy with Mr. Hargreaves, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Mr Michael Young, the council's chairman, told him that the Government's document "looked like a charter for firms who want to put prices up and not for consumers who want them kept down."

Mr Young made five points: the decision to raise gas prices by 10 per cent should be reversed; the Office of Prices Regulation should be cut or proposed postal increases refused; the Government should stand firm against food price increases sought by the EEC; the decision to cut food subsidies should be reversed; and the Government should slow down or reverse more money should be spent on consumers' advice services.

Parliamentary report, page 14

Man in the news: Mr David Marquand, Labour MP and painstaking biographer of Ramsay MacDonald

'Myths must not hinder rigorous rethinking'

By Peter Hennessy

Political parties, like any other human institution, need their share of myth. Mr David Marquand, historian, biographer and Labour MP for Glasgow, has just mounted a 300-page assault on one of the most cherished political myths of the twentieth century, one that for 46 years has helped to sustain the unity of the Labour Party.

His life of Ramsay MacDonald, the fruit of 10 years' scholarship and kindly received by most reviewers, tackled head on the time-honoured interpretation of the Labour movement which sees its first Prime Minister as the great betrayer who sold them out to the bankers and the Tories in a calculated attempt to destroy the party that had put him in Downing Street.

With painstaking detail and Macdonald's unpublished diary, Mr Marquand shows that, far from plotting the destruction of the 1929 Labour government in favour of a coalition, MacDonald struggled until the last moment during the economic crisis of August 1931, to keep his Cabinet together while authorizing the cuts deemed essential to keep sterling on gold.

As if to rub salt in the wounds, the heroic image of those who refused to go along with MacDonald in cutting unemployment benefit is also undermined by Mr Marquand's demonstration that not one of them had what today would be

called an alternative strategy to check the flow of pounds from London.

Mr Marquand, an adviser to Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the EEC Commission, will shortly be resigning his safe mining seat in Nottinghamshire to work full time in Brussels. His father was Minister of Pensions in the Attlee government and he grew up in an atmosphere of Labour politics.

He is not leaving Westminster in any mood of apostasy, but Mr Marquand refuses to countenance that his book might harm his party by making it more unstable than ever through its demolition of one of the props—"I shall never do a MacDonald" is the usual phrase—that keeps Labour Cabinets together during their periodic crises.

"I deeply and profoundly disagree with the view that you must have myths," he says. "In a curious way, history is more important to me than politics."

But he is too subtle a thinker to see the lessons of 1931 simply in terms of the arguments for and against coalition that have been regularly rehearsed since the July measures of 1966. The moral for Mr Marquand is that radical parties must not allow myths to get in the way of rigorous rethinking.

The tragedy of the standard interpretation of MacDonald's role in 1931 was that it prevented Labour from facing the inadequacy of its policies at the 1929 election. The historian, he says, cannot not be a kind of "celestial chief justice" putting posthumous reputations to rights, he must be a psychoanalyst as well, making people or political parties stare past traumas in the face instead of fleeing from them into fantasy.

MacDonald, Mr Marquand points out, was no right-winger.



Mr Marquand: "History more important than politics."

Girls granted arbitration pay rises of up to 133 pc

Five girl clerks in a Midlands furniture company were awarded pay rises of between 74 per cent and 133 per cent yesterday.

The awards by the Central Arbitration Committee were said to be the largest ever awarded in arbitration.

Mr Donald Groves, divisional officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said that talks on the claims, which had been made under a 1946 fair-wages resolution, began in January, 1976.

The five girls, all under 21, have been earning between £15 and £23 a week. Their salaries will now be between £26 and £40 a week. They are to try to obtain back pay of between £510 and £629.

Mr Groves said: "We were able to use the 1946 resolution because the company was engaged in making furniture for education authorities, so the wages became comparable with local authority wages."

Helicopter pilot in command of ship

A Royal Navy helicopter pilot who had not officially navigated a ship for 10 years was given command of a university training vessel, it was stated at a court martial at Rosyth, Fife, yesterday.

Lieutenant Commander Anthony Grattan-Cooper, aged 33, was reprimanded at the court martial at the shore establishment, HMS Cochrane, after he admitted boarding HMS Droxford, a 120ft seaward defence vessel.

The Droxford, attached to the Glasgow and Strathclyde universities' naval training unit, hit a rock in a loch on the West Coast of Scotland on November 13 last.

Lieutenant Commander Michael Ellis, for Commander Grattan-Cooper, said the commanding officers of university unit ships at Glasgow, Aberdeen, Southampton and Liverpool, although regular naval officers, did not receive a commanding officer-designate course before taking command.

"In the future, it is my understanding, perhaps as a result to some extent of these proceedings, that commanding officers of such a unit will be given a CO-designate course."

"Lieutenant - Commander Grattan-Cooper is a helicopter pilot. In fairness, he has spent periods at sea in a seamanship capacity, watch-keeping officer, although it is some ten years since he was actually at sea in a seamanship billet."

The court was told that Commander Grattan-Cooper, the only qualified navigating officer on board, approved a navigation plan prepared by Reserve Midshipman Michael Cassidy, a dental student at Glasgow University, for passage up Loch Sunart. Two bearings were unusable because they were plotted on rocks which were submerged at all states of the tide.

Commander Ellis said Commander Grattan-Cooper was aware that the navigation plan was not in all respects correct. "He accepted it as a basis for the passage up the loch. He felt that through the deficiencies of the plan Mr Cassidy would learn from the errors which resulted."

The court accepted two pleas of not guilty from Commander Grattan-Cooper on charges of negligently performing his duty.

Rapid progress with comprehensives

There is no ideal size for comprehensive schools and no national policy that lays down hard and fast rules about size, a report issued yesterday by the Department of Education and Science says.

In the early years of reorganization comprehensives tended to be large; now the average size is about 950 pupils.

The report appears to back the old theory that large comprehensives are necessary to provide viable academic sixth forms.

The report, tracing the revolution that has swept school reorganization since 1965, says progress by local education authorities towards a fully com-

prehensive system has been rapid.

Latest figures show that of the 105 authorities now in existence in England and Wales only one has no comprehensive schools within its area; 27 authorities are fully reorganized; 19 are full reorganized, apart from voluntary schools, and 58 are partly reorganized.

British Rail is opposed to extension of the M3

By Peter Godfrey

British Rail has tacitly opposed the extension of the M3 motorway, urging the expansion of rail services as an alternative to the planned road link.

Giving evidence to the Department of the Environment's public inquiry into the motorway at Winchester yesterday Mr John Ellis, passenger services manager for British Rail's Southern Region, said trains were already used by half the travellers between London and the South Coast and that 92 freight services operated daily between the two points and beyond. "The railway has the capability to carry the order of 50 per cent more passenger traffic and 30 per cent more freight traffic with minimal additional cost," he said.

Mr Ellis said the present

average of five trains per hour in each direction along the route could conceivably be increased to 15 without significant additional investment. Optimum use of the rail capacity would fit in with British Rail's plans to introduce 125 Inter-City trains between Southampton and the north, and to build three new freight terminals.

While Mr Ellis's evidence fell short of a formal objection to the motorway scheme, British Rail conceded that the implication of his remarks was that the M3 extension might prove redundant.

The public inquiry, which has aroused strong local feeling in Hampshire, culminating in the disruption of proceedings last summer, is examining plans to build a 12½ mile extension to the M3 around Winchester in preference to upgrading the by-pass.

Wider choice in buying spectacles

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Opticians will in future stock and display the full range of National Health Service spectacle frames, under measures announced yesterday by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

He said the ophthalmic organizations had also agreed that the prices should be shown where frames are displayed.

The Government has decided to implement many of the recommendations in the Price Commission's report last September on the supply of private spectacles.

Opticians will not try to persuade customers to buy expensive frames without seeing the full range of health service frames.

Accounts will show the total amount to be paid, subdivided into the statutory health service charge for lenses and the charge for the appliance. If patients require further information about costs it will be given.

Mentmore new offer 'difficult'

The National Trust's offer to take over Mentmore Towers if an endowment for repairs and maintenance made available was welcomed by Lord Rosebery, the owner, with reservations, yesterday.

"We are looking into this proposal closely, he said, "but I do not hold out a lot of hope that we will be able to postpone the sale because the costs of so doing are absolutely enormous."

If the present offer to the Government was taken up by the trust after May 30, when the three-year limit from the if would cost him £400,000. But if the National Trust's new proposal was taken up after that date it would probably cost him another £400,000, making a total of £800,000, which he could not afford.

Janie Jones tells court of her hunger strike

Janie Jones, the singer, has been on a hunger strike as part of a campaign against changing prisons, it was disclosed yesterday. Miss Jones, who was appearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court to explain why she has not paid £16,000 legal costs, said she went on the strike to protest against being transferred from Holloway Prison, London, to Styal semi-open prison in Cheshire.

"I went on hunger strike from January 24 until February 19," she said. "This was until I saw Lord Longford". Miss Jones, who was jailed for controlling prostitutes, said she had been threatened by another inmate.

She complained that she was unable to handle her business affairs while in the Cheshire prison.

Mr Miles Laddie, Miss Jones's solicitor, said no progress had been made in the matter of obtaining the money. Miss Jones had twice been refused parole and they were still awaiting the result of the third application.

The hearing continues on June 14.

Soldiers jailed for rape

Six soldiers from Caterick camp, North Yorkshire, were jailed at Teesside Crown Court yesterday for the rape of a village girl aged 17 and described as immature.

Five of the men, all drivers from 60 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, were jailed for five years. The sixth was jailed for three years for aiding and abetting the offence. All had pleaded guilty.

Man of 53 had intercourse with over-poem girl

A girl of 14 wrote love letters to a man aged 53 to succumb and had sexual intercourse with her, it was stated at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Frederick Sidney Crouch, aged 53, an electrician, of 14 Chapel Road, Crockenhill, Orpington, London, pleaded guilty and bound over to £500 bail to come up for judgment on April 5.

Referring to a recent Court of Appeal decision, Judge Gibbs, QC, said that where the view could be taken. But he added that Mr Crouch "must not assume that he is not going to prison for a substantial time."

Earlier, Mr Crouch was found guilty of indecent assault on a girl under 16.

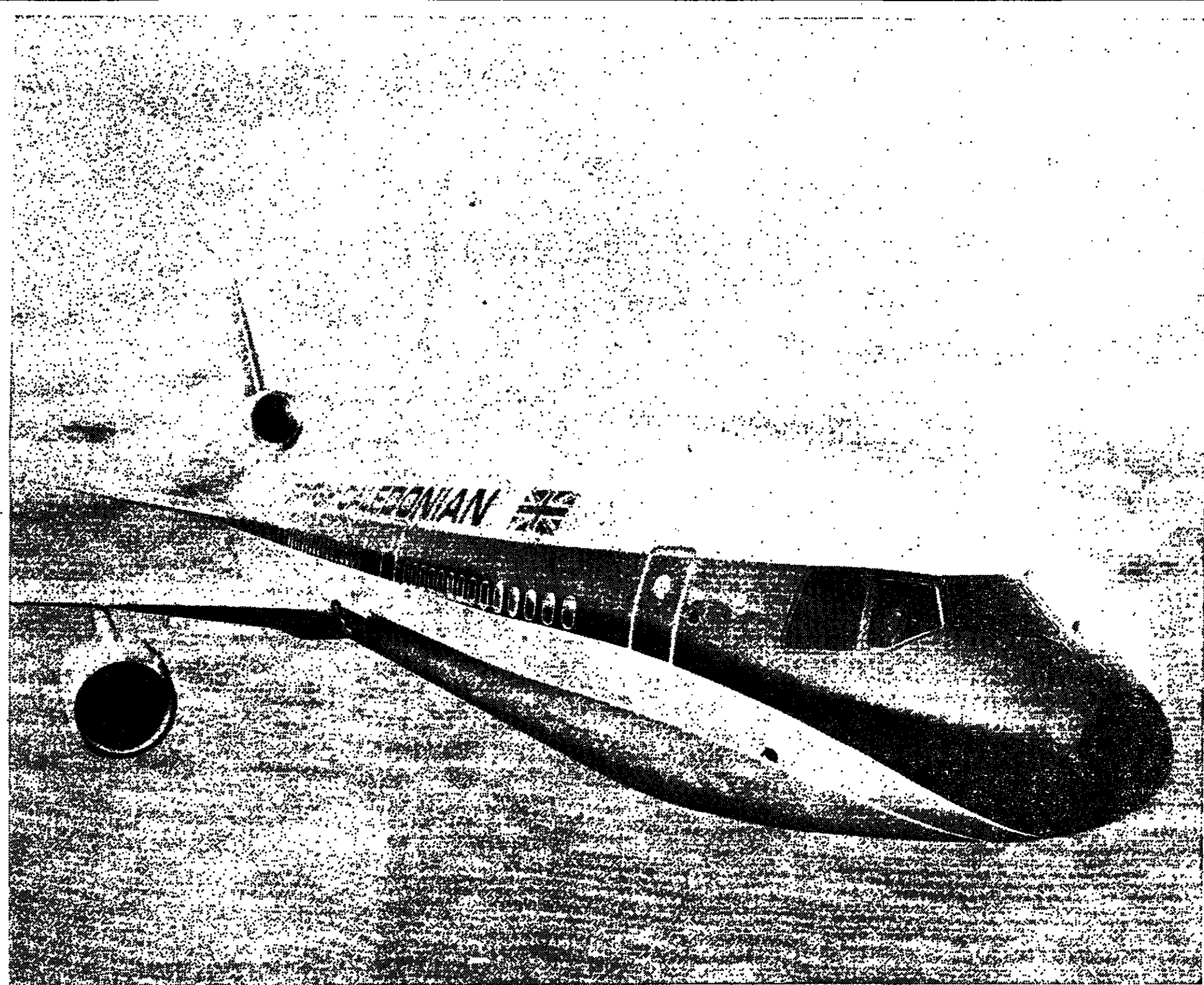
Extra security at roadmoor

A special unit is to be set up at Roadmoor Hospital, Crowborough, Berkshire, after protests about security.

It will house the 15 most notorious inmates at the top-security mental hospital.

R speed limits

Speed restrictions have been produced by British Rail Eastern Region on some tracks at have not been replaced as speed, because of a shortage money.



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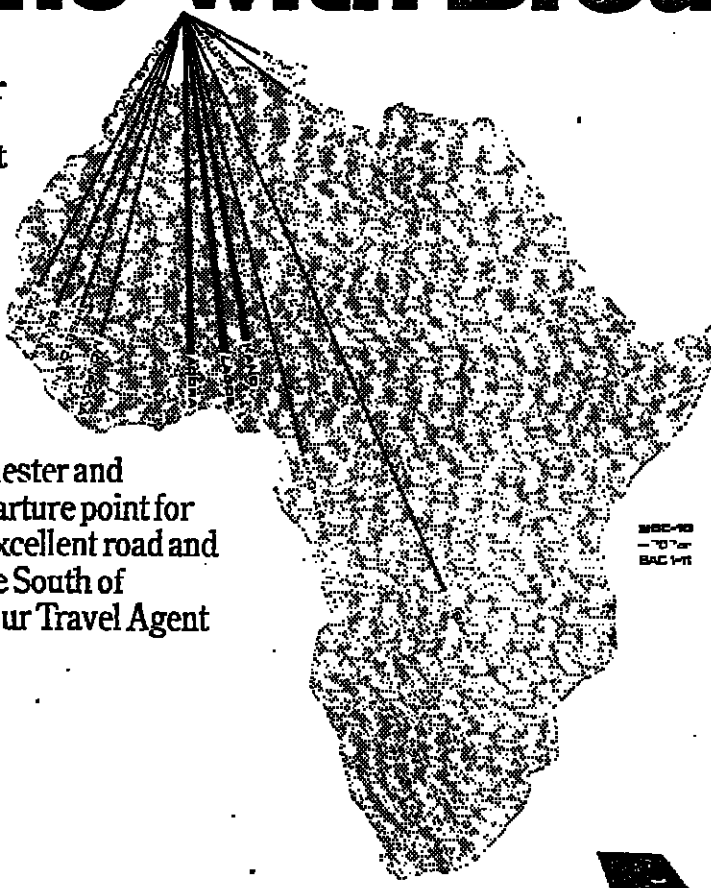
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WEST EUROPE

Rivals for Mayor of Paris join forces to halt left's advance

from Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 15

A cartoon can often sum up political situation better than words of clever commentators. Today's cartoon in *Le Figaro* puts in a nutshell the situation after the first ballot in the municipal elections. It shows Jacques Chirac and M. Michel d'Ornano, busy with tubes of glue piecing together the bits of broken china of the government majority.

The tactical reconciliation of the rival champions of the majority in Paris took place today on the neutral ground of the National Assembly, at the suggestion of M. Chirac, the Gaullist leader. After an hour of discussion they issued a joint statement calling on Parisians who want to defend a free society to give massive support to the list of the majority which remains alone next Sunday against the upholders of the common programme (of the left), and this even in those districts where there is no left-wing threat, M. Chirac is thus, barring an unexpected victory of the left, assured of becoming Mayor of Paris.

But M. Chirac turned down as premature a suggestion by M. d'Ornano, the Independent Republican Minister of Industry, that they should divide the

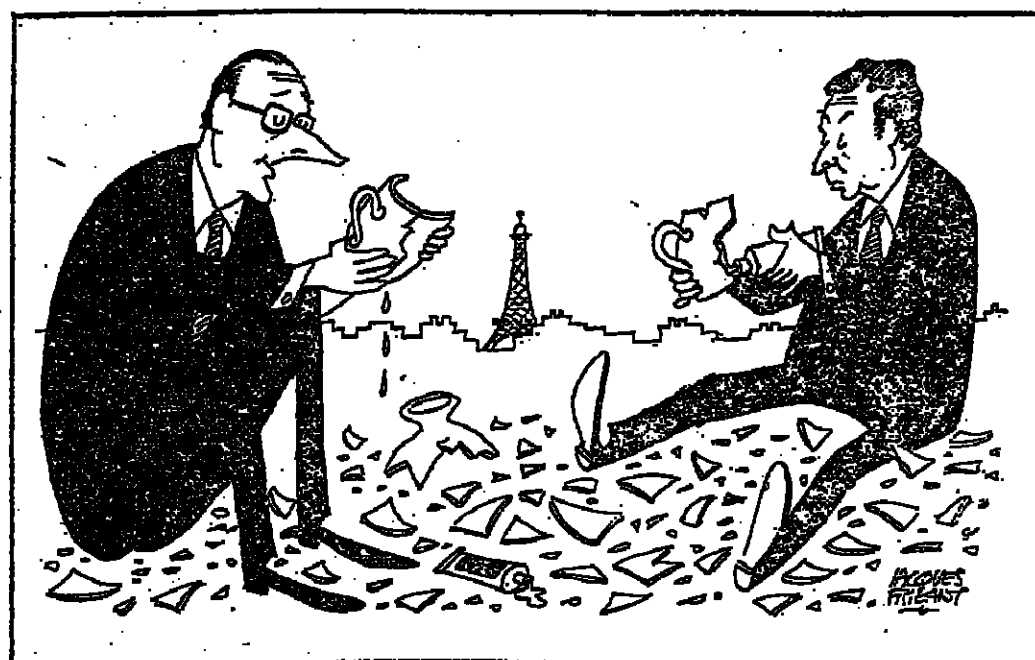
spoils here and now; and that the post of mayor and other positions of responsibility in the new city council should be distributed in relation to the strength of each faction of the majority.

He also refused to become involved, as M. d'Ornano insisted, in the unseemly controversy which broke out in the last days of the campaign over the question of whether Mme. Françoise Giroud, the Minister of Culture, is entitled to the Medal of the Resistance. A group of Gaullist horseheads had claimed that she had no right to assert this in her election literature. She has started an action for libel against them.

There is reason to believe that before committing himself to a division of the spoils, M. d'Ornano wants to see how next Sunday's voting will go. He may also endeavour to obtain from the Gaullists some guarantees on the Government's policy over such issues as direct elections to the European Parliament.

The upshot of today's electoral pact is that the supporters of M. d'Ornano will withdraw in 11 districts where they came second on Sunday to those of M. Chirac. Mme. Giroud, who had unsuccessfully challenged the long-standing Gaullist office holder in the 15th arrondissement on Sunday, already announced yesterday that she would step down.

The corollary is that M. Chirac, as he said last night,



M. d'Ornano and M. Chirac repair the broken china of the government majority, as seen by "Le Figaro".

will personally support M. d'Ornano in the left-wing stronghold of the 18th arrondissement where he obtained a very creditable score and has a chance of being elected a councillor. The Gaullists will withdraw in three districts where M. d'Ornano's list led the government majority. Paradoxically, they are in the popular eastern part of Paris, and it is important for M. Chirac's future image as mayor, that he should not appear to be the victor in the prosperous western districts alone.

The left is also closing ranks for the second ballot, though it has no divisions in Paris to overcome. It must fight hard during the few remaining days to preserve those five districts which it holds, let alone to

wrest one or two others from the majority. A great joint meeting is being held on Friday night by the Communists, Socialists, and Left-wing Radicals to galvanize their troops.

A battle of statistics between the two sides after elections to prove that if not everyone won last Sunday, at least no one has really lost, is true to French electoral tradition.

M. Henri Fribin, the Communist candidate for Mayor of Paris, maintained that the left continued its progression throughout the country. In Paris, it had improved its position by 3.5 per cent and led in 10 out of 18 districts; while the right had lost 10 per cent in relation to the previous municipal elections of 1971, and its score "was never so low".

True to form also, the Ministry of the Interior has produced a somewhat astonishing set of figures which completely contradict these claims. According to those, the left obtained 35 per cent of the votes last Sunday, while the government majority scored 50.2 per cent, the ecologists and "Jobertists" accounted for 12.4 per cent, and the extreme right for 2.4 per cent. Turnout was exceptionally high with 78.8 per cent.

Even the independent right-wing newspaper *L'Aurore*, hardly expected to exaggerate left-wing gains, wrote today that "if one believes those percentages, one would have to admit that the majority had surrendered 33 mairies to the Opposition out of courtesy, and will similarly lose 10 more next Sunday".

Evidence of arson as four die at night club

Stockholm, March 15.—Three young men and a woman died early today in a fire at one of Stockholm's most popular night clubs. The police said all the evidence so far suggested arson.

The blaze started at the roulette table and there were several explosions as it spread to the two-storey restaurant where some 200 people were dining just after midnight. All but four of the guests and staff were evacuated through emergency exits.

An employee said he had just extinguished a minor fire in the lavatory where someone had set alight paper towels in a waste basket when the main fire started.

Three guests received burns and were taken to hospital. One youth was badly shocked and the police had to prevent him by force from returning into the flame-engulfed restaurant.

The night club, Monte Carlo, was all but totally destroyed. Its proprietor, Mr. Bo Ankesson, said: "I know that certain people would like to see that Monte Carlo didn't take in such a profit. But that some competitor deliberately set fire to a packed restaurant—no, I just can't believe it."

Monte Carlo was particularly well-frequented because it was one of the very few night clubs in that part of Stockholm that remained open until 3 am. —AP.

OVERSEAS

Soviet Jews fear spy trials 'Dreyfus-style' and fresh persecution

By Peter Reddaway

Soviet Jewry feels itself more threatened with persecution than at any time since Stalin ordered mass arrests and shootings of Jews in the last years of his rule.

This feeling is vented in a growing number of appeals now reaching the west, and in a letter sent last week to President Carter.

The signal which has most alarmed Jewish leaders has been the accusation of espionage on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency levelled against activists and American diplomats by the Government newspaper *Izvestia*. They fear that the publication of these allegations on March 5, the twenty-fourth anniversary of Stalin's death, was not coincidental and constituted a clear hint of what may be to come.

The latest two appeals to reach London are dated March 13. One is signed by three of the activists accused by *Izvestia*, the other by 250 Jews from many cities.

The appeal of the 250, having recalled the awful nightmare of the "Doctors' plot" case in 1952-53, says that "now, in our times, there has burst upon us the preparations for a new trial, a trial of Jewish 'spies', recalling the notorious trial of the so-called 'spy and traitor' Dreyfus".

"During the last few months", the document continues, "we have seen an escalation in the growing stream of harassments of Jews: beatings-up in the woods

outside Moscow, mass arrests for 15-day periods, the suppression of the planned symposium on Jewish culture, the renewal of the threat to try the editors of the magazine *Jews in the USSR*, intimidation in all the provincial towns where Jews live, the sentence of three years against Amnon Zuvorov in Uzbekistan, the arrest of Dr. Beegun in Moscow, the opening of a case against Dr. Salansky in Vilnius, and now the monstrous accusations in the columns of *Izvestia*.

"On the surface, only a small part of the erupting volcano can yet be seen."

The other appeal is signed by Dr. Alexander Lerner, Mr. Vladimir Slepak and Mr. Anatoly Shcharensky, activists denied emigration permits over several years. Mr. Slepak and Mr. Shcharensky have been under heavy pressure for some time as they belong to Dr. Yuri Orlov's group monitoring Soviet observance of the Helsinki agreements.

They write: "The recent dramatic events in Moscow, and in the Soviet Union generally, testify to the readiness of the Soviet authorities to go to almost any lengths in order to suppress the growing national renaissance of the Jews of Russia... The situation is such that we feel exactly like hostages in the hands of terrorists who acknowledge no laws, national or international, and who are ready to take extreme measures at any moment", they conclude.

Tenerife rioters burn offices and cars

From William Chislett
Madrid, March 15

Fierce confrontations between demonstrators and riot police continued until shortly before dawn today in La Laguna, Tenerife, leaving cars and offices burnt out, shop windows broken and dozens of people injured.

The immediate cause of the rioting was not clear. According to some reports, it started after police entered the church of Santo Domingo to dislodge 25 striking workers who had been staging a sit-in since last Sunday. Other reports said that 15 workers had entered the church and held two priests hostage. Police arrived after the bishop telephoned them and the workers escaped over the roof.

Whatever began the fracas, events quickly got out of hand and a crowd of several hundred people, many of them students, gathered around the church and marched on the headquarters of the state-run trade union organization and set it on fire. Firemen arrived in time to save the building from serious damage, but the offices of a government training centre were smashed and furniture was taken out into the street and burnt.

Demonstrators took petrol out of parked cars to make fire-bombs, which were thrown along with stones and other objects at the police. The clothing of one policeman was set on fire and colleagues had to

extinguish the flames. Police retaliated with smoke and tear gas and fired rubber bullets. At least 18 police were injured and an unknown number of demonstrators.

Roads into La Laguna were sealed off by police; and frightened residents retired indoors, leaving police and demonstrators to fight it out.

Before the rioting began an explosive was found in a travel agency and a fire bomb was thrown from a moving car into a restaurant. A client picked it up and threw it into the street, where it exploded.

News of the violence reached Madrid while the Cabinet was meeting to discuss the long-awaited electoral law. The mainstream socialist party is now considering a boycott of elections if certain conditions are not met. Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the secretary-general of the Spanish Workers' Socialist Party (PSOE), wound up the party congress in the Basque country last night with an attack on the Government for deliberately creating confusion in the minds of electors.

Señor Blas Pinar, the leader of the extreme right-wing organization, Fuerza Nueva, was summoned to security police headquarters today in connexion with investigations into two cases of killing—four lawyers and a clerk in one case and a student in another. Señor Pinar is a member of the Cortes directly appointed by Franco.

Manufacturers indignant at EEC definition of cream

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

Food manufacturers fear that sweeping EEC plans to outlaw words like milk and cream on labels of groceries that do not contain them may slip into law during heated negotiations about farm prices.

Many British companies consider a draft regulation from the EEC Commission about milk products one of the most sinister and uncompromising documents issued from Brussels since this country entered the Community.

Cream is defined by the commission as "the product obtained from milk or whey in the form of a fatty type of emulsion in water and having higher fat content than milk". That is narrower than definitions accepted in every-day English usage in English food law and, not least, in the Oxford English Dictionary.

The dictionary calls cream, among other things, "a fancy rich or sweet made with cream or to resemble cream; a cream preparation used cosmetically".

The Commission said its intent to ensure that what is sold cream should be cream and not cream-like was "in line with overall Community

policy on correct labelling in order to protect the consumer and widen consumer choice". British companies claim that the draft regulation is an effort to reduce the milk products "mountain", disguised as a consumer protection measure. They find its appearance in the centre of the farm price proposals for next year especially alarming.

That is because once a regulation is adopted by Community ministers it automatically becomes law in each member state. That would mean changes in either the labelling or the composition of many British groceries. Ice cream could no longer be so called since it is made mainly of palm and palm kernel oil usually with no dairy fat. It makes of tinned cream of tomato soup wanted the description to remain legal they would have to create a new recipe which would add to the cost.

Mr. John Newman, an assistant director of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, said yesterday: "The main thing is to get this out of the farm price package. It has no business to be there." The federation and other trade groups will see Mr. Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, about it.

Mgr Lefebvre counts on new Pope's support

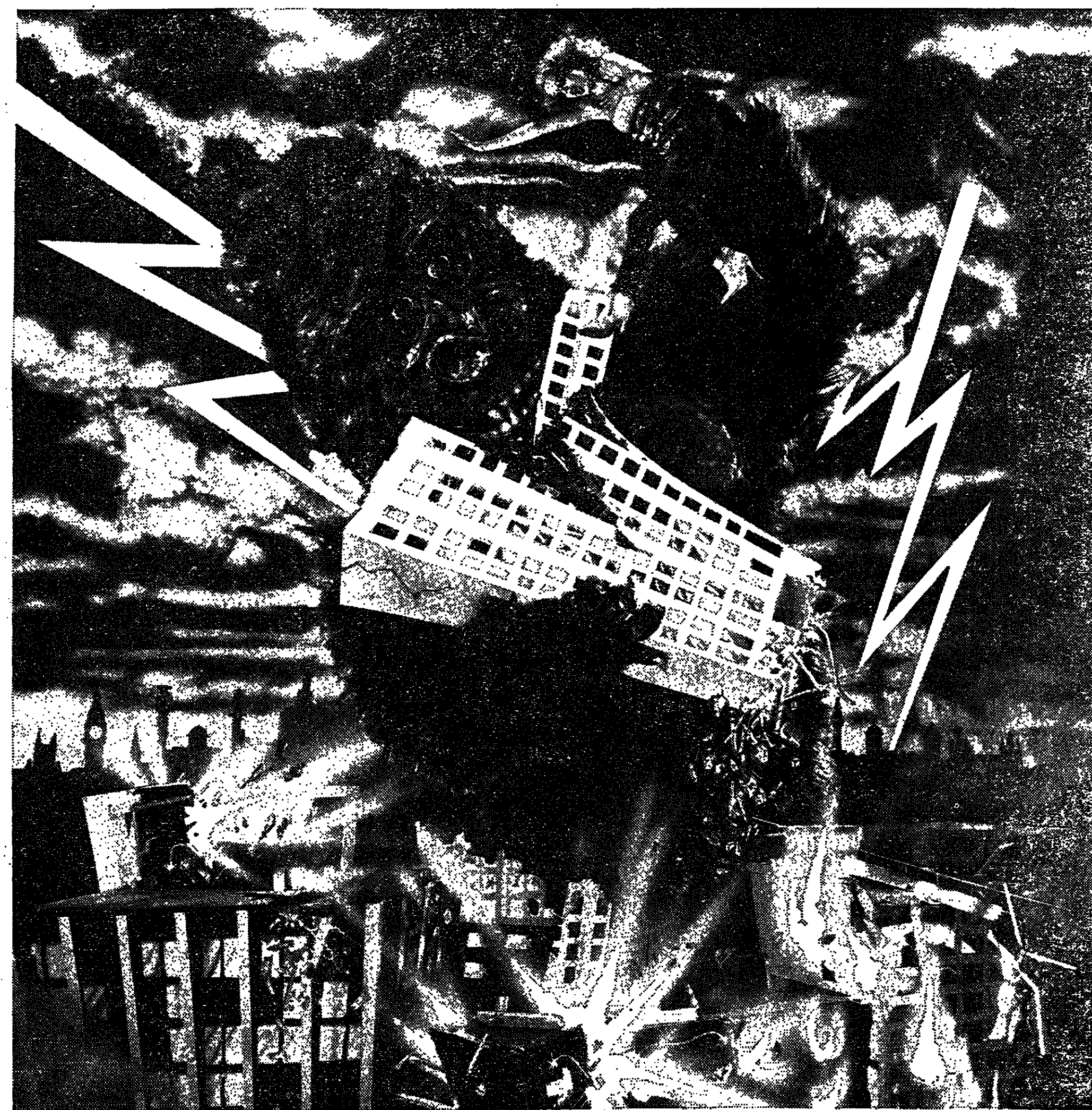
from Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 15

Mgr Marcel Lefebvre, the defiant leader of the rebel traditionalists in the Roman Catholic Church, said today that new Pope would judge in favour of his movement. Earlier one of his leading supporters had rejected a compromise offer from the Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Marty.

"There is a malaise in the church in the entire world," Mgr Lefebvre said. "A new Pope would change many things in the Church". Discussing the occupation by traditionalists of the church St Nicolas du Chardonnet on the Left Bank in Paris, he said the Catholics had a right to take over "churches that are empty."

With the traditionalists on his very doorstep since the occupation of St. Nicolas, Cardinal Marty has proposed a compromise solution of a Latin Mass said according to the rite of Paul VI. This he hoped would satisfy a good number of Catholics whose sympathies for the traditionalists were based on the use of Latin in saying Mass.

The reaction from the traditionalists was anything but encouraging. Mgr. Ducaud-Bourget, the militant supporter of Mgr Lefebvre, said that this was no solution. It failed to understand the issues over which the traditionalists were fighting and could never be accepted.



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OVERSEAS

Africans miss Israel's expertise despite Arab promises of aid

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem March 15

Arab pledges of vast aid for the African countries, made at last week's Afro-Arab meeting in Cairo, have not affected Israel's hopes for the eventual restoration of the close ties it once had with many African states.

There have been indications recently that several African leaders are anxious to resume links with Israel and it is believed here that even if the Arab aid pledges are met in full, this desire will not be lessened.

When Mr. Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, made a surprise visit to Geneva last month to meet President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast there were allegations at home that his mission was a political stunt to divert attention from domestic problems. But Mr. Rabin insisted that the talks were "a link in the chain of efforts to restore effectively and diplomatically Israel's ties with the countries of Africa". A few weeks earlier he had talks with President Senghor of Senegal while attending the Socialist International in Geneva.

The Prime Minister conceded that the process would be a long one but added that African countries were already showing greater understanding of Israel's position.

It was reported that President Houphouët-Boigny told Mr. Rabin that in spite of the lack of diplomatic relations there was no change in Ivory Coast's positive attitude towards Israel.

Most African countries broke with Israel in the

months before the Yom Kippur war in 1973, and the remainder soon after the war. The most publicised rupture was with Uganda, which owed Israel an estimated £15m.

Uganda has remained uncompromisingly hostile to Israel because of President Amin's switch to the cause of Islam, which was inspired by Libya. This is not true of most African states, which continue to maintain contact with Israel through special interest sections in European embassies and through private business.

Advance reservations are needed for the weekly flight from Tel Aviv to Nairobi, which is regularly filled with Israeli businessmen and business commitments in Kenya and other African countries.

Ten per cent of the thousand students from abroad attending courses at educational institutions in Israel are from African countries, which have broken diplomatic relations with Israel.

Israel's technical aid programme began in Ghana soon after Ghana won independence and later spread from Africa to Asia and Latin America.

Aid projects in Africa concentrated on developing agriculture, livestock rearing, and veterinary and health services. Israel helped to set up Ghana's Black Star merchant marine and a system of water supply for the Accra district. They started an engineering faculty at Addis Ababa University and taught Ethiopians port maintenance, traffic engineering and how to develop tourism.

They provided ophthalmic services to Liberia and, through a Haifa firm, supervised an oil refinery in Sierra Leone.

Cairo stays silent on black states' trade ties

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, March 15

While the Arab and African heads of state were congratulating each other last week on their renewed economic and political cooperation, a number of potentially embarrassing files were lying on the shelves of the Egyptian Ministry of Information in Cairo.

African leaders, who were promised \$1,500m (£900m) in aid from the Arab nations at the Afro-Arab summit here, have agreed to give political support in the struggle against Israel. But the files, which have not been made public, contain details of trading arrangements which have gone on—and in some cases still go on—between Israel and African nations.

According to one of the files, Israel "has played a major trading role in Nigeria, the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone". The document also refers to an Israeli company that has been

involved in a water resources project in the Malagasy Republic and to a company called Solel Boneh, which has organized road building in Nigeria, including a 750-mile highway. The Saudi Ambassador to the Arab League made some veiled comments in the Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram* two weeks ago, about the need for economic unity, but it seems unlikely there will be any attempt by the Arabs to lean on their African neighbours.

For reasons of morale as well as diplomacy, Arab nations have not told their own people that the African nations have traded with Israel. Nor have they officially mentioned the reports circulating in Cairo only a month ago that Ethiopian troops captured by Eritrean guerrillas at the beginning of the year were armed with Israeli rifles and allegedly admitted they had been trained by Israelis.

Arafat men willing to form Geneva delegation

From Our Own Correspondent
Cairo, March 15

Palestinians supporting Mr. Yasser Arafat and other traditional leaders at the Palestine National Council session in Cairo indicated today that all but the 20 Rejection Front representatives among them would be prepared to form an independent delegation to attend a Geneva Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Arafat himself, although not as incautious in private conversation as his colleagues, implied his acceptance of Geneva but steered away further questions by telling the press: "We have to receive an invitation first of all."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) sent out a series of representatives from the meeting to tell journalists that any Palestinian state must be used as a base for "political and military struggle" against Israel.

Tonight Mr. Basam Abu Sherif of the PFLP refused even to discuss Geneva, stating that his movement would welcome a Palestinian authority on any part of Palestine regardless of size—even 10 kilometres of it," he said—on the condition that the struggle with Israel could continue from this base.

One sign of the PFLP's consciousness that they form only a very small minority on the council can probably be found in the increasing number of statements they are making to the press about the impossibility of accepting the present balance of power bringing about a settlement. They are referring to the massive Syrian and Egyptian pressure being brought to bear upon the Palestinians for a peaceful settlement with Israel and to the 100 pro-Syrian delegates added to the council to swing majority opinion in Mr. Arafat's favour.



Last-minute campaigning in India: Mr. Jagjivan Ram (left) an opposition leader, welcomes a huge crowd yesterday in Harayana state and Mrs. Gandhi speaks at Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

Opposition see Sanjay gun attack as 'stunt'

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, March 15

A reported attack last night by gunmen on a Jeep carrying Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, son of the Indian Prime Minister, has been greeted with scepticism by opposition parties, who see it as a last-minute electioneering stunt. Polling in the general election begins tomorrow.

The ruling Congress Party described the incident today as an "assassination bid by unknown miscreants". But a spokesman for the opposition Janata Party alliance, said: "The whole story seems very odd. Nobody believes it. He asked why security guards had not begun an immediate search for the gunmen."

Mr. Gandhi, leader of the Youth Congress, who had just ended his campaign for the Amethi constituency in Uttar Pradesh, was unhurt in the attack, in which five shots were said to have been fired. But according to a local magistrate's report to the Congress-run state government, three shots hit the seat and body of the vehicle.

The magistrate was reported, by Samachar, the state-controlled news agency, to have said that Mr. Gandhi had "a narrow and miraculous escape". Gunmen waiting in another jeep had fired at Mr. Gandhi's vehicle "turned a corner late at night in deep countryside. Mr. Gandhi himself is reported to have observed: "I do not know if they were trying to kill or to scare me."

The incident came at a moment of maximum impact as the Indian electorate has 24 hours to make up its mind before polling begins in more than 300 of the 542 constituencies at stake.

Samachar reported that a guard had returned fire but that the gunman escaped in the darkness. All India radio, the only source of news for most of the electorate, continued to give prominence to the episode today.

The rise of Mr. Gandhi, aged 30, especially since the emergency was declared in June, 1975, has been one of the themes of the election campaign. The opposition has repeatedly criticized him over the drive for mass sterilization in rural areas.

Hunger strike: Mr. George Fernandes, the jailed Indian socialist leader, who has been on a hunger strike for five days, was admitted to hospital in Delhi today. A Janata spokesman said his condition was reported to be serious.

Mr. Fernandes, aged 46, who is facing charges of conspiring to overthrow the Government by force, is the Janata candidate for the Muzaffarnagar constituency in North East India. He has been refused bail and began his fast because the Government refused to transfer him to a jail near Muzaffarnagar.

In a statement the Delhi administration said Mr. Fernandes was in a fair condition, and had been placed in hospital as a precaution.—Reuter.

Smith challenge to 12 rebel MPs

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, March 15

Mr. Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, addressed the nation on radio and television tonight in a clear attempt to rally popular support for his leadership.

He spoke on the eve of a meeting of the ruling Rhodesian Front's national executive at which his policies are to be challenged by 12 rebel MPs. Mr. Smith regards the rebellion—ostensibly against moves to modify segregation—as a cover for an attempt to oust him from office.

In his broadcast, the Rhodesian leader challenged the 12 rebels to resign their parliamentary seats and to test their backing at by-elections. If they demonstrated they had majority support in their

constituencies, he would then call a general election.

It was a matter of regret, he said, that the 12 rebels had broken the longstanding unity of the Rhodesian Front which had been the despair of Rhodesia's enemies.

The passage through Parliament of the Land Tenure Amendment Bill, which opens up white-only agricultural land to purchase by all race groups, had been misrepresented by some to indicate that his Government had weakened, that it was about to surrender, and that there was no future for the white man in Rhodesia. Mr. Smith deplored that defeatist attitude, "which could not be further from the truth".

The Prime Minister said that Rhodesians were living in "testing times" and were being subjected to "tremendous pressures". These would be increased, he maintained, before any new British approach on the settlement issue was made, and Rhodesians were going to need strong hearts and clear heads in the months ahead.

He concluded: "Everything I possess is in Rhodesia and I intend to remain here. Surely thinking people do not really believe that I and my Government would be party to any plan which would destroy the future of the white man in Rhodesia?"

A special commission is sitting in Salisbury tomorrow to decide whether to strip the Roman Catholic Bishop of Umtali, Mr. Donald Lamont, of his Rhodesian citizenship.

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Mr Callaghan says US and British policy is aligned

By Hugh Noyes,
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr. Callaghan underlined in the Commons yesterday the excellent working and personal relationship that he has developed with President Carter as a result of his recent visit to the United States. Reporting to the House, he made it clear that on all the main issues involving their countries around the world the two leaders are travelling along similar paths.

But the Prime Minister's statement went well beyond the usual clichés common to these occasions. He emphasized that Britain was "fighting for her life" and that it was beholden on anyone travelling abroad to give a fair representation of our country's position. We could no longer afford self denigration and he deplored the trend in which everything wrong was headlined and everything good was put at the bottom of the page.

The "appalling picture" of Britain conveyed on American television, the Prime Minister said this was a headline picture culled by American correspondents living in West End bars and never seeing what was going on in other parts of the country. In more informed circles in the United States there was a real understanding of the way the British people were facing the great issues of industrial regeneration.

Emphasizing the importance in the national interests of reaching for a more effective working relationship with the United States, the Prime Minister went on to show that to a great extent this had already been achieved. Throughout his statement covering all the important problems facing the western world—unemployment, inflation, economic recession, East-West relations, Rhodesia, apartheid and southern Africa protectionism, human rights, arms reduction, the North Atlantic alliance, Cyprus and the Middle East—Mr. Callaghan said Britain and the United States would be cooperating closely.

In a brief aside on President Amin, Mr. Callaghan said he thought the Ugandan leader should be kept a little off balance. We should not state our position so clearly that he knew what the response should be. He preferred that President Amin should be kept wondering as to what the actual position would be if he arrived in Britain for the Commonwealth conference.

On Rhodesia Mr. Callaghan said that the United States fully supported British efforts for a settlement. He threw out the hint that the Foreign Secretary during his proposed visit to southern Africa would be prepared to see Mr. Smith if the Rhodesian leader wished to make arrangements for this meeting.

Parliamentary report, page 14

Coalition thwarts Johannesburg voters

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, March 15

Despite winning most seats in Johannesburg's municipal elections earlier this month, the opposition Progressive Reform Party (PRP) was today prevented from taking over the city's management, when the ruling national party and the United Party joined forces to form a new management committee.

It is the first time in the city's history that the National Party has had a say in the

running of the city's affairs.

The PRP won 9 seats in the elections, four more than its nearest rival but five short of the overall majority needed to take over the city council's management committee.

The United Party, which had traditionally governed the city, came third but has succeeded in retaining a presence in the council by collaborating with the National Party to keep the PRP out.

Johannesburg now has a United Party mayor, a National Party deputy mayor and a joint UP-PRP management committee.

The decision to work with the National Party may lead to further splits in the United Party, which is already riven with internal disputes.

Meanwhile, the South African Cabinet met to discuss the new controversial Newspaper Bill amid hopes that negotiations may be reopened with the National Party (NP) to avoid the looming confrontation between the Government and the press over the Bill.

Another Briton arrested in Somalia

Another Briton is reported to be in custody in Somalia. He is Mr. Michael Postle-Hacon, who had been working under contract at Mogadishu Port for a firm based in Mombasa.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that Mr. Gunderson of the British Embassy was seeking consular access. If the embassy's experience with Miss Jane Wright is anything to go by, Mr. Gunderson may have to wait a long time. Although he has been in daily contact with the Foreign Ministry in Mogadishu, permission to see Miss Wright, who has been held in custody since early December, has so far not been granted.

Miss Wright was one of the crew of the yacht *Julie II*, which was grounded on the Somali coast.

Correction: A report in *The Times* on February 22 on the yacht running aground near an archaeological camp stated that the crew had met the archaeologists previously and this aroused the suspicions of the Somali authorities. One of the archaeologists has pointed out that they had never previously met the yacht crew.

Goldwater denial of underworld links

From Peter Strafford
New York, March 15

Senator Barry Goldwater today denounced the allegations that he has had close links with members of the criminal underworld in his home state of Arizona. Appearing on television this morning, he declared: "It's not only ridiculous, it's completely untrue."

He said that he was shocked and resentful, and was contemplating a libel suit. "In the past 15 years I have been in Arizona a total of possibly six or eight months. I have nothing to do with state government. I don't know a single man out there connected with crime."

The allegations, which have been published in newspapers across the United States, have caused a considerable stir, not least in Arizona. So far, they have concentrated on Senator Goldwater, his brother Robert, and Mr. Harry Rosenzweig, a close friend of theirs; but there is more to come as the series continues.

In the latest instalment, published today by *Newsday*, the Long Island newspaper, and others, Mr. Rosenzweig is accused of having ties with "bookmakers and hoodlums" who helped start Las Vegas on its course to be the gambling capital of the nation", of having "nurture prostitution and gambling in Phoenix for years", and of exercising influence over the police.

The portrait that emerges, the article goes on, is of a society where "there is frequent mingling of organized crime, racketeering and business and political leaders". It quotes a Phoenix businessman as saying that Mr. Rosenzweig was the man who brought together the underworld and the top level of society.

This seamy portrait of Arizona is the outcome of a joint investigation by 37 journalists representing 27 different organizations, which was launched after the murder last year of a Phoenix journalist. The series of articles began on Sunday and is to continue for three more weeks.

In his television appearance this morning, Senator Goldwater commented that the reporters had gone to Arizona hoping to solve the journalist's murder, and that when they had found they could not, they "set out to do a job on Arizona."

On the other hand, in spite of his attacks on the series, Senator Goldwater has confirmed some of the allegations made against him. He has confirmed, for instance, that he recalled a contribution during his first campaign for the Senate from "Willy Boff", an underworld figure murdered in 1955. At the time, he added, he did not know who Boff was.

According to yesterday's article, Boff became a close friend of Mr. Goldwater, when he flew about the state in his aircraft and once took on a holiday. "I think I was at his house for drinks twice," Mr. Goldwater commented today. "He lived right down the street from the golf course."

Mr. Goldwater has also confirmed that he knew Gus Greenbaum, an underworld leader murdered in 1953, though he said that he did not know about his connections; and he has confirmed that he had intervened to help Mike Newman, a man convicted of a gambling offence.

One of the ironic aspects of the story is that the two main papers in Phoenix, the *Arizona Republic* and the *Phoenix Gazette*, which have the same ownership, have so far not published a word of the articles, even though they have the right to do so and it was one of their reporters, Don Bolles, who was killed last year.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION CHANGES FROM 6 APRIL 1977.

The main changes are summarised here but leaflet NI.208/April 77, obtainable now from Post Offices and Social Security offices, gives full details.

CLASS 1 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES

The upper earnings limit up to which contributions are payable will be raised to £105 a week.

The lower earnings limit below which no Class 1 contributions are payable by employer or employee is being raised to £15 a week.

The employer's contribution rate will remain at 8%, but a 2% surcharge will be added for taxation purposes, making the total employer's rate 10%.

The contribution rates for employees will remain unchanged.

New contribution tables (forms CF 391) have been issued direct to employers and further copies can be obtained from Social Security offices.

CLASS 2 & CLASS 4 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED

Class 2 (flat-rate) contributions for men will be increased to £2.66 a week and those for women to £2.55 a week from the week beginning 10 April.

If you expect to earn less than £875 from self-employment in the 1977/78 tax year, you can apply for exception from liability to pay Class 2 contributions. This is £100 more than the limit for 1976/77.

Class 4 contributions will continue to be at the rate of 8%. However, the lower and upper limits for assessment of profits or gains on which contributions are payable will be raised to £1,750 and £5,500 respectively.

VOLUNTARY CLASS 3 CONTRIBUTIONS

The flat-rate contribution will be increased to £2.45 a week.

OVERSEAS



Survival record: Sorin Crainic in a Bucharest hospital after his 252-hour ordeal.

Man rescued from rubble after 10 days

Bucharest, March 15.—A Romanian who survived 252 hours without food or water under the earthquake rubble is baffling doctors and proving medical textbooks wrong.

He was rescued this morning after being entombed in the debris of a 10-storey Bucharest block of flats for 10 days.

The condition of Sorin Crainic, aged 19, was described by a hospital official "as surprisingly good". He escaped without a scratch, but "suffered from dehydration and shock".

The official described Mr Crainic's survival as "a record unmatched in medical history. It left us agape".

One hospital doctor remarked that a human being usually was unable to live longer than four or five days without water. Last Saturday, however, a 58-year-old woman was dug out from underneath the rubble after three days without food and water.

Mr Crainic, a worker at the Electromagnetica plant of Bucharest, was conscious when rescuers reached him. "He shook my hand and demanded a glass of water", one rescuer said. "Then he inquired what day it was."

He was rescued because a member of a search party heard a noise when a brick was moved. After several hours of digging they discovered Mr Crainic trapped in a corridor in the basement of the building.

The death toll in the earthquake has now risen to 1,541, with more than 11,000 injured. —AP and Reuters.

Mr Carter visits Irish on St Patrick's Eve

From Patrick Brogan
Clinton, Massachusetts
March 15

The President will meet the people here tomorrow, on his first trip out of Washington since he moved there, give or take a couple of weekend excursions and a quick look at some snow last month.

Clinton is widely honoured and excited, sprucing itself up and holding practice meetings. It is very indulgent to the mass invasion of television.

The occasion is Clinton's annual Town Meeting. Citizens of New England have been gathering every year in their local churches or town halls since the first settlements, to discuss their problems and vote on them.

It is all very democratic and just the thing to fit Jimmy Carter's image of himself as an ordinary citizen who happens to have made it to the White House.

Ordinary citizens, however, are not followed around by 300 reporters, cameramen, secret service and other hangers on, but Clinton is no mine. The proceedings will go out live to America and every one in America dances willingly to the television cameras' tune.

Mr Carter will spend the night in the house of Mr Edward Thompson, a local businessman. The Thompsons are Irish Roman Catholics and will have the traditional green candle in their window tomorrow night, the eve of St

Patrick's Day. They are in their 50s, have eight children and are in a tizzy of expectation.

They were not chosen entirely at random. The secret service wanted a large, relatively isolated house with an empty house opposite for themselves. The White House organizers wanted somewhere typical, or somewhere that could be presented as typical, and the President wanted a good night's sleep.

Mr Carter, of course, has been to Massachusetts before. A year ago he lost a primary here badly, between winning in New Hampshire and in Florida. The loss was a nasty shock and even though he tried to shake it off comfortably last November, it is a shock to remember.

Mr Carter still has to build up the sort of personal support he needs if he is to realize his dreams, and the town meeting in Clinton, like his phone-in 10 days ago as steps along the road.

Clinton has 40,000 people—bigger than Plains, Mr Carter's home town, and older but in itself not at all remarkable. It is about 30 miles west of Boston and was thought typical of New England. On Thursday Mr Carter will move on to other things.

First he will fly to West Virginia to discuss energy problems with the citizens of that coal mining state and then in the evening he is going to New York to address the United Nations.

Tight security in Melbourne for royal visit

Hobart, Tasmania, March 15.—A small group of demonstrators raised banners and waved republican flags when the Queen walked in Hobart today. Others in the crowd of about 5,000 pulled one of the banners down and shouted abuse at the demonstrators.

On the Australian mainland security is being tightened in anticipation of further republican demonstrations in Melbourne tomorrow. Hundreds of police will be on duty as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh drive through the city centre in an open car.

In Sydney, Julian Stirling Gilchrist, aged 22, was remanded until next Monday charged with offensive behaviour. He was said to have shouted "Go home Pommy Queen" at the Queen yesterday. Mr Gilchrist is the son of the Australian Ambassador in Madrid. —Reuters.

American aviation expert speaks up for Concorde

From Peter Strafford
New York, March 15

The British and French campaign for Concorde landing rights in New York today received resounding support from Aviation Week, a leading aviation magazine.

In a strongly worded leading article, Mr Robert Hotz, the publisher and editor, castigated the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for conducting "an obnoxious bureaucratic delaying action that is typical of that bankrupt municipality".

The article dismissed the arguments that have been used against giving Concorde landing rights at Kennedy airport, saying that they no longer constituted a case. New York needed Concorde if it was not to see its preeminence as the commercial centre of the United States eroded further.

"Only a handful of cynical politicians who are wailing

constituents by fighting the mythical Concorde dragon and a few thousand long-suffering airport vicinity residents are trying to hold back progress in much the same manner as people who lay down in the early railroad tracks more than a century ago", Mr Hotz wrote.

The noise made by Concorde in the vicinity of airports was the same at that of early 707s and DC8s, but vanished quicker because of its faster climb, he added. In Washington, where the Concorde has been landing for several months at Dulles Airport, both The Washington Post and the Washington Star, former opponents of Concorde, had called for a similar test period in New York.

In Britain, where anti-Concorde hysteria had been even worse than in New York, a year of actual operations dissolved all the myths its opponents propagated.

Law Report March 15 1977

No tax on anticipated profits

Willington (Inspector of Taxes) v. Bank Ltd
Before Lord Justice Stamp, Lord Justice Ormrod and Sir John Pennycuik

A bank's profits are not assessable to tax until they are realised and the Crown is not entitled to tax sums representing fractions of anticipated profits due when bills and promissory notes reach maturity at some future date.

Their Lordships so held (Lord Justice Stamp dissenting) in dismissing, in reserved judgments, an appeal by the Crown from Mr Justice Walton (77 TC 123) who confirmed substantial reductions in assessments to corporation tax made on the Crown's Commercial Bank Ltd for 1967-70.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted by the Bank. The bank was incorporated to provide worldwide finance to commercial companies. Its business included purchasing or discounting bills issued by borrowers for periods of less than 10 years. Normally the bank held the bills until maturity but on occasions it sold them before maturity. Some of the bills carried interest at a fixed rate; others did not. The Crown held the bank's profits for the period of the anticipated profits from the bills were included in the bank's annual commercial accounts and assessed to corporation tax on that basis.

Mr Justice Walton upheld the general commissioning in allowing an appeal by the bank against the assessments on the ground that no amount representing fractional parts of anticipated profits fell to be included in the computation of taxable profits. The Crown appealed.

Mr Michael Nolan, QC, and Mr Brian Davidson for the Crown; Mr E. Heyworth and Mr J. R. Gardiner for the bank. LORD JUSTICE STAMP, in his dissenting judgment, for allowing the appeal summarised his conclusions. (1) The annual profits accruing from a trade under Case 1 of Schedule D were to be assessed in accordance with the principles of commercial accounting but subject to any relevant statutory provisions or overriding principles of tax law.

(2) The bringing in on the credit side of the account made for the purpose of computing annual profits, of a present debt which was payable in futuro did not offend the principle that profit must not be anticipated. (3) The amount of the discount on a bill was such a debt, and accordingly to bring into the account of it into the account on the credit side did not offend the principle.

(4) Since the bringing in of a discount before it was received did not offend the principle, it became a matter of accountancy to determine what part of the dis-

count ought to be brought into the account in any year. (5) It was common ground that, in ascertaining the bank's profits, it accorded with the principles of commercial accountancy to treat the discounts as being earned over the period in which the money advanced on the bill was outstanding. His Lordship would allow the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD, for dismissing the appeal, said that he had read the judgment of Sir John Pennycuik and agreed with it. The Crown's real case was that the "cardinal rule" that "profit shall not be taxed until realised" had been overtaken and rendered, perhaps not yet wholly obsolete, by the evolution of modern, so-called scientific principles of accountancy. If any rule of law was right there would not be much left of it, notwithstanding its re-statement in 85C Footwear Ltd v. Ridgway (1972) AC 544.

The case for the Crown called for bringing into account for each of the years the bank's bills were held, a proportionate amount of their increasing value as maturity approached. The bank did not become legally entitled as a matter of contract to those separate increments in each of the accounting years. The Crown had been reduced to proposing that just as money might earn interest, so in the case of discounting bills, it also earned discount. That was like saying that because two roads ran from A to B they were the same road. The bank could not as a matter of law be required for tax purposes to bring into account aliquot parts of its ultimate profit in each of the years during which the bills were maturing.

SIR JOHN PENNYCUICK said that the type of transaction in the bills could be analysed in legal terms. Assume a bill with face value of £1,500 maturing in 1975 taken up by the bank in 1970 against a payment of £1,000. In 1970 the bank parted with £1,000 and received in return a chose in action consisting of an obligation to pay £1,500 in 1975. The market value of the bill at the time of its acquisition in 1970 was the price paid for it by the bank (£1,000). Over the years 1971-74 its market value increased as the maturity date approached, but unless there was a sale before maturity, there was no realisation. In 1975 the bank received £1,500 in return for the chose in action, which was then realised by discharge.

At that point the bank "realised", in another sense of the word, a profit—the excess of £1,500 over £1,000. The profit was not realised until the bank sold the bill to meet the tax liability. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Travers Smith, Braithwaite & Co.

Court of Appeal

Footpath on county map still has rights of vehicular passage

Suffolk County Council v. Mason and Others

Before Sir Douglas Frank, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division
[Judgment delivered March 10]

The ancient vehicular rights attached to a lane could not be extinguished merely by its inclusion as a footpath on a definitive map of the county drawn up under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.

His Lordship rejected Suffolk County Council's claim for a declaration that, on a true construction of the Act, the fact that their first revised definitive map showed Marsh Lane in the parish of Kessingland as a footpath was conclusive evidence that it was a highway over which the public had a right of way on foot only, and granted a declaration to Mr E. S. L. Mason, of Denes Holiday Camp, Kessingland, and four other defendants, that the public had a full right of way, including passage for vehicles, over Marsh Lane.

Mr Alan Fletcher for the council; Mr Gerald Moriarty, QC, and Mr Stuart Sleeman for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Suffolk County Council sought a declaration that on January 1, 1961, the date of the first review of the definitive map for the county, Marsh Lane was a highway over which the public had a right of way on foot only. The review was carried out by the council in pursuance of their powers under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, and the revised map showed Marsh Lane as a footpath.

The Rev Dr E. C. Brooks, Rector of Somerleyton, had set out in an affidavit the history of Kessingland from the Stone Age. For several centuries it had been the largest port on that part of the Suffolk coast, and from at least Norman times, Marsh Lane was the main roadway to the harbour. When the harbour declined the lane was used by carts for the collection of reeds. Marsh Lane had always been known as a lane, which meant a surfaced road between hedges, and that fact coupled with its width of 20ft, was further corroborated by its use as a cartway. Dr Brooks concluded that Marsh Lane had been a public cartway from time immemorial.

The council now admitted that

conclusion and said that it would be taken into account on the next review, but that in the meantime the position at law was that Marsh Lane could only be used as a footpath. On their behalf it was submitted that as the definitive map was conclusive evidence that there was a footpath along Marsh Lane and as by the definition in section 27 of the Act a footpath means a highway over which the public have a right of way on foot only, other than such a highway at the side of a public road, the public right of way over Marsh Lane was as a footpath and ex hypothesi it was not a public cartway.

Counsel for the defendants relied on *Hornevill's Case*, and argued that there was nothing in the Act which gave the council powers to extinguish a highway.

Classification of highways at common law, according to Sir Edward Coke, was: (1) it might be a footway appropriated to the sole use of pedestrians; (2) a bridleway which was a footway and horseway; (3) a cartway which comprehended the other two and was also a cart or carriage way. Whichever class a highway belonged to, it was still a highway and once a highway always a highway. The public could not release their rights, and there was no extinctive presumption or prescription; nor was the public right lost by disuse. In the absence of express statutory authority or destruction by natural causes, there could be no extinguishment of a highway. Those presumptions must be applied with equal force to any demotion of a highway.

Power to extinguish a highway was formerly vested in quarter sessions. Nowadays, the final arbiter was a minister of the Crown, but before an order could be made extinguishing a highway there had to be safeguards for those persons likely to be affected, with adequate publication and, in the event of an objection, a public inquiry.

Therefore, Parliament must not be deemed to authorize the extinguishment of a highway or the diminution of rights in a highway unless it did so in express terms.

So far as highways were concerned, the Act of 1949 was designed, according to its long title, "to make further provision for the recording, creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access

to open country." The scheme of Part 4 of the Act, which related to public rights of way, was to ascertain, define, publicize and preserve footpaths and bridleways. It was not, therefore, the purpose of the Act to extinguish highways and nowhere in it was there such a power. Accordingly the mere inclusion of a footpath on a definitive map would not be extinguished by a sidewalk of the process. Thus it was necessary to look at the sections on which the council relied.

Section 32(4) provided that "where the map shows a footpath, the map shall be conclusive evidence that there was at the relevant date specified in the statement a footpath as shown on the map." That subsection established that the definitive map was conclusive evidence that there was a footpath on the line of Marsh Lane but it did not more. Thus the council had to say that "only" in the definition of a footpath in section 27(6) conclusively established that there was only a footpath and nothing more.

His Lordship did not think that the words bore the meaning contended for by the council. The common law definition of a footpath was a highway over which the public had a right of way on foot only; thus as a footpath there were no other rights of way. It did not follow that there could not be other rights of way. Moreover, the words that followed in the definition in section 27(6), "other than such a highway at the side of a public road", presupposed that there could be such a highway, namely a footpath within a public road which fell within the definition of a footpath. That construction was necessary in order to avoid conflicts which would otherwise arise, for example by section 34 of the Highways Act, 1959, Marsh Lane would be deemed to have become a highway after 20 years' uninterrupted use. The purpose of section 32 of the 1949 Act was to establish that a highway shown on the definitive map should remain so for all time but that did not preclude any additional rights of way which the public might have.

There would be judgment for the defendants and a declaration that Marsh Lane was a public highway over which the public had a full right of way, including a right of way for the passage of vehicles.

Solicitors: Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr K. O. Hall, Ipswich; Stilgoes, Haslemere.

Queen's Bench Division

Selling goods at undervalue

Pilgram v. Rice-Smith and Another
Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Eveleigh and Mr Justice Wain

[Judgment delivered March 10] Where a shop assistant sells goods at an undervalue to a customer who is involved in the scheme from the start, the shop is open to a charge of theft. It does not matter that theft of only part of the goods is charged and that the whole is proved. The Divisional Court so held when considering an appeal by the prosecution, by way of case stated, from the Crown Court (Judge Moylan). Dereham Justices had convicted Mrs Doreen Rice-Smith and Mrs Heather May Church, the respondents, of theft of goods contrary to section 1 of the Theft Act, 1968. They had appealed to the Crown Court, where it had been held at the close of the prosecution case that there was no case to answer.

The respondents had been charged with the theft of that portion of the goods which had not been paid for, and the questions for the consideration of the court were whether the evidence disclosed a prima facie case of theft and whether it was necessary to be able to point to a specific part of the goods as having been appropriated.

Mr Francis Irwin, QC, and Mr John Akast for the appellant; Mr Igor Judge (who did not appear below) for the respondents.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the prosecution had an obligation to prove that the respondents jointly that they stole corned beef and bacon worth £21p from the International Stores, East Dereham. The justices found them guilty.

The Crown Court found that Mrs Rice-Smith, an assistant employed at the shop, had taken 18p of corned beef and 3p of bacon. At that time corned beef was 18p a quarter and bacon was 72p a pound. Mrs Rice-Smith served Mrs Church with well over a quarter of corned beef, and marked 20p on the wrapping. She also served her with more than a pound of bacon and marked 28p on the wrapping. Mrs Church then walked round the store, selected further articles and went out of the check-out. She paid £1.04, including 20p for the corned beef and 3p for the bacon. It was said that she should have paid 82p more.

For the purposes of the present appeal the court would assume that the Crown Court had found the transaction to be fraudulent from the start. But the decision in favour of the respondents was achieved in a different way. The judge had been of the opinion that since they were not charged with theft of the whole and it was not possible to point to any part that was stolen, there was no case to answer. That was a narrow point of law, but the present appeal was important because many cases might depend on it.

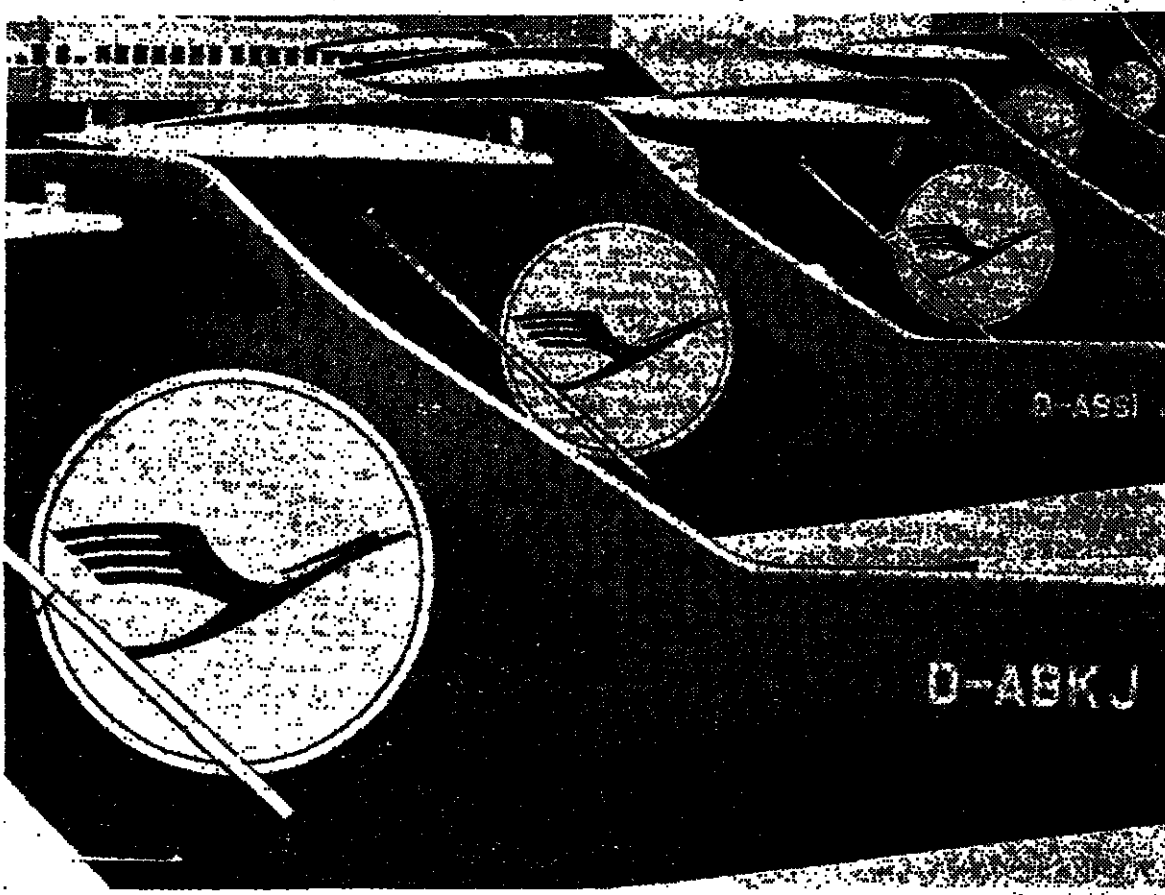
The judge at the Crown Court had not had any authority cited to him in particular. *Tideswell* (1965) 2 KB 273 had not been cited. There was obviously a consideration of similar issues in that case and the present, treating it as a case of a single article one paid a sale whereby the price was fraudulently mis-stated, but part was not paid for. *Lacis v. Cashmarts* (1969) 2 QB 400 supported *Tideswell*.

The court must treat Mrs Church as involved from the start, and the bacon and corned beef as a single parcel. The sale was a nullity from the start because the woman behind the counter had no authority to sell at an undervalue. That opened the door to a charge of theft. It did not matter that the respondents were charged with theft of part and theft of the whole was proved.

Mr Irwin had indicated that he did not intend to press for the case to be sent back. Accordingly, the court would allow the appeal, there would be no order.

Solicitors: Mr L. V. Bates, Norwich; Messrs. Farrier & Staveley, King's Lynn.

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Mr Callaghan—This came up in Ottawa in particular, not so much in the United States. In Ottawa there was a great deal of interest and I went on record clearly as the position of what I believe to be the whole House, of the great indignation felt in this country at what is happening in Uganda. There is no doubt in the minds of Canadians about that and the Canadian foreign minister, Mr.

Went on television immediately afterwards to repeat what I said.

Mr William Molloy (Eating, New Lab.) Will Mr Callaghan not vote too lightly the necessary achievement of his visit to the Americas in Canada? He has done considerable repair the damage inflicted last year on Britain by the speaker, Mrs Thatcher, and it is about the record that is at risk. He did remarkably well.

When President Carter comes to Britain will he assure him that the anti-black minority in this House of Commons is confined to a small segment of the Tory party and the overwhelming majority of the House denigrate him.

Mr. Callaghan—As regards aparthidism, I think there will be no difference between the attitude of the Government and the administration on the one hand, and our own attitude on the other. We hope our attitude is universal in this House.

I think it is a worrying fact that the real position of this country is so distorted abroad. We have got into a trend in which everything that is wrong is headlined and everything good is put at the bottom of the page.

In the old days we could at least say the self-denigration factor. We cannot afford it any longer. We are fighting for our lives and are beholden to all of us to put abroad a fair representation of our country's position.

nationalised applied to the Department of Industry for some time, but supporters of the Government would indicate that should that be the case, they would consider their approach to promoting public funds, particularly in Great Britain, had indicated their opposition to public ownership. There should be public accountability in respect of those funds.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Fyfe (Tirraton, C) said that the Lords had discussed the amendments and they would do and not what the Government accused them of doing—letting pass those amendments to remove hybridity from the Bill.

The House had done these three amendments because it failed to pass them by two-thirds on December 7 when three Liberal MPs decided to vote for them with

Daily, a member of the TUC General Council and General Secretary of the NUM, is lying when he says there has been no consultation with the NUM as to the terms of the new law. The Department of Employment told him that there could not get the NUM out of the new law because it would create difficulties for the other industries. Is the minister challenging Mr Grant—I am not accusing him of lying. I am saying that he says that the Government have not consulted the NUM as to the new Directive at present and are seeking exemption for the coalmining industry.

The motion was agreed to.

Ignorance of toy safety law not an excuse

Paul Hawkins (South-West Norfolk, C.), in an adjournment debate, said that a constable, Mr. Marcus, of Kitterly Ltd., had been fined £30 for breach of law in street trading, which he could not sell because of toy safety regulations which were introduced after he had ordered his goods.

Mr. John Fraser, Minister of State for the Home Office, said that Mr. Marcus (Lambeth, Norwood, Lambeth) was ignorant of the law, but that he was not co-operative until they had been affected individually to those affected in general. It was before the Minister of health and safety and consumer safety requirements were introduced.

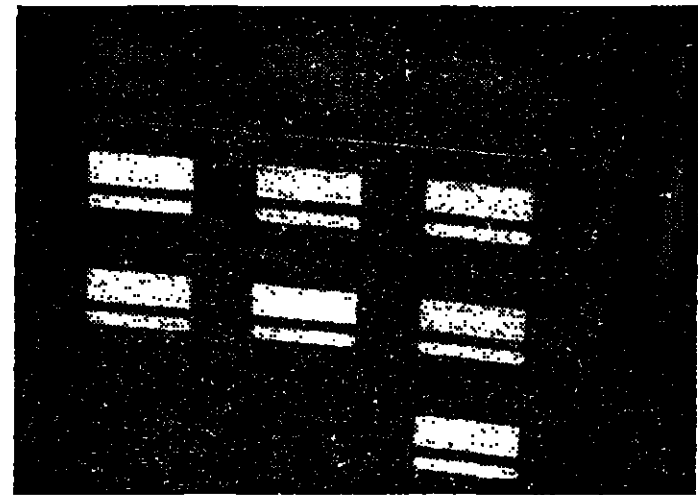
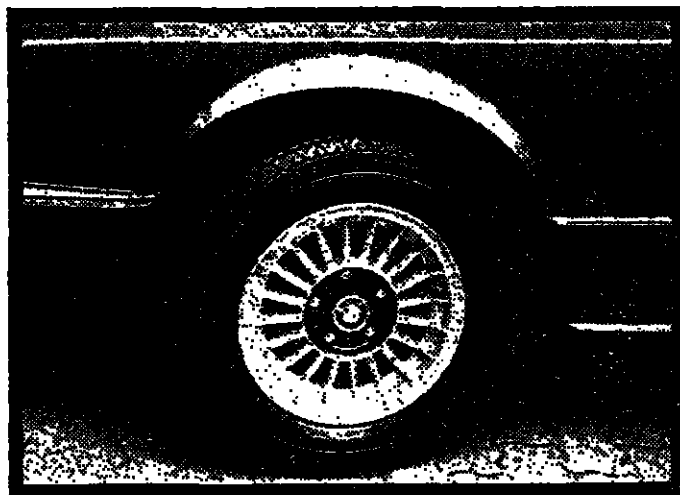
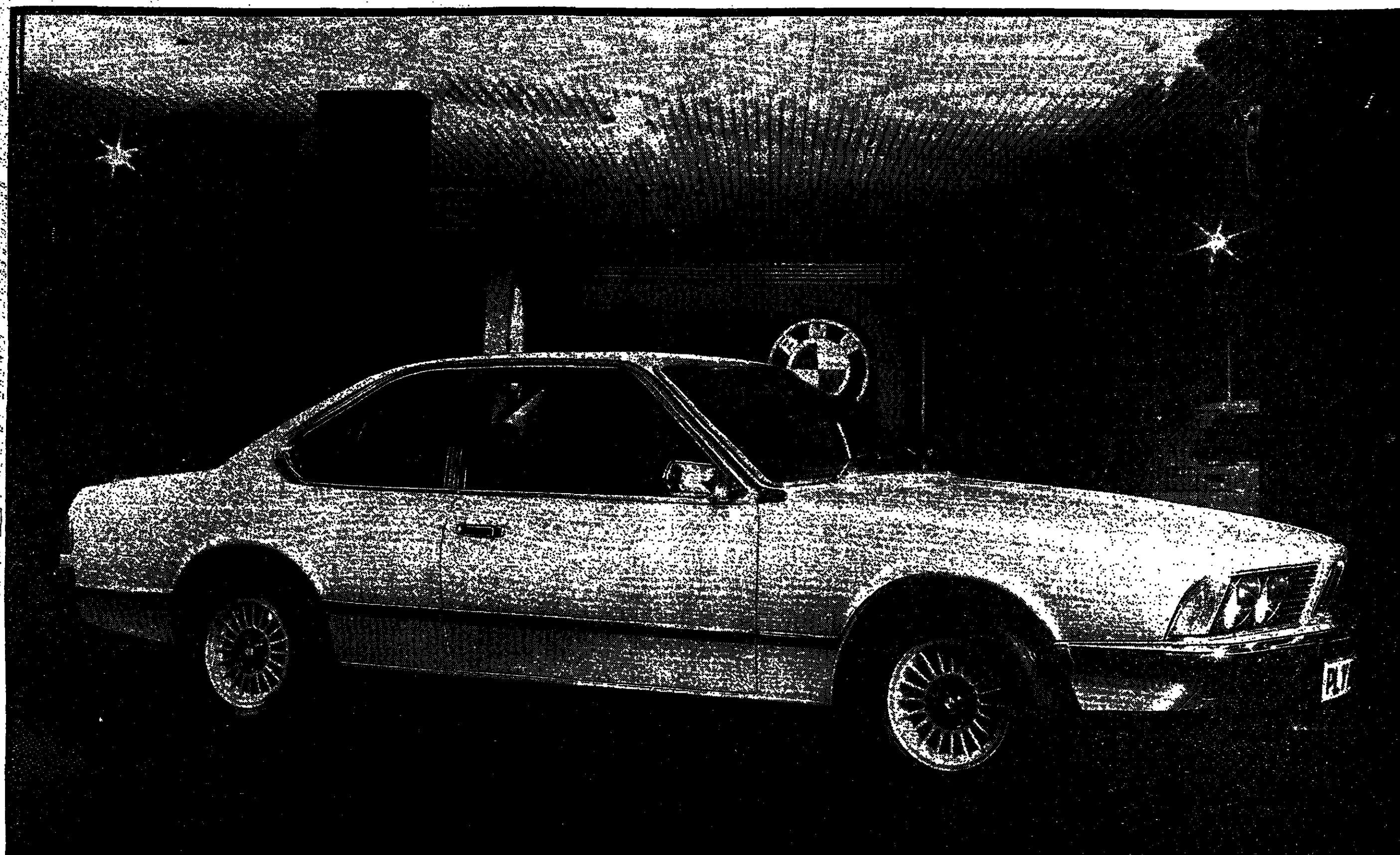
People like Mr. Marcus belonged to trade associations and associations of consumers.

In his letters to the department Mr Marcus contended that the part of the regulations dealing with sharp edges was unnecessary because of the few accidents that occurred. But in 1974 34 out of 121 complaints about potentially dangerous toys concerned sharp edges and points.

The first prosecution against Kix Hobbies Ltd was not brought until late 1975, almost two years after the regulations were first

ooted by the Home Office.
House adjourned, 10.30 pm.

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Bernard Levin

The family who chose the mercy of the cruel sea

How peculiarly vile must a system of government be if citizens compelled to live under it are willing to trust their lives to a couple of toy boats

There was a little-regarded news item the other day, about a woman and her 15-year-old son being found floating in a collapsible dinghy in the Baltic; her husband and their two daughters, aged 12 and 14 respectively, had been in a similarly frail vessel, but had drowned.

The cruel sea, you may think, up to its usual tricks. The family's boat had been swamped; they had taken to the dinghies which, as prudent sailors, they had been careful to have aboard, dividing the family as they had no doubt planned against the possibility of just such a disaster: probably they had had regular lifeboat drills, joking as they did so. And now the grey, impersonal waves had shown themselves stronger than all the precautions, and the world contained one more widow and one more fatherless child. And that is really all there is for any outsider to say about it.

Or rather: almost all. For there is an extra dimension to the story, which is now before me to disclose. The family had not taken to their rubber dinghies from a sinking yacht; they had embarked in those very craft. And there were no other boats in the area, no sport or putting their children through some kind of Outward Bound toughening process. They were not seeking fitness, relaxation or sunken treasure; what they were seeking was freedom. For they were a family of East Germans, from the western marches of the Soviet Empire, and they were trying to get away from it. The mother and the son did not, the father and the two daughters did not. We record a 40 per cent success

rate (or, if we are of a pessimistic tendency, a 60 per cent failure-rate), and pass on. We pass on first to a fairly obvious reflection. How peculiarly vile must a system of government be, if citizens compelled to live under it are willing to trust their lives and the lives of their children, in a challenge to the might of a northern sea, to a couple of toy boats? (If your first thought is that they were foolhardy not to wait until the weather was better, have a second; when the weather around the shores of Soviet Germany is such as to make the waters navigable without risk, the State watchers are vigilant enough for any kind of boat putting out to sea, be it never so innocent in appearance. Only when it is very dangerous indeed to sail such seas is there any chance of the vigilance being sufficiently slack to offer any chance of escape.)

I ask how vile a regime must be if its citizens are compelled to take such chances to get away from it. For consider: the Soviet imperialists have been in occupation of Eastern Germany for a third of a century; an entire generation has been born, and grown up, and created another, under Soviet rule.

They have never read any permitted printed word, never heard or seen anything on their radio or television programmes, never learnt anything in school or university, never had any public instruction or exhortation, never come across any public information at their place of work or in their leisure, that had not been carefully searched and screened, by people highly

skilled in the appropriate techniques, to ensure that not a single word of truth about the world, or communism, or their Soviet masters, or their own puppet-government, would get through. Whatever it was that this family felt, and that drove all of them to danger and most of them to death, came from their lifetime's experience of the delights of communism. The likes of this are sufficient to keep seventeen million people indefinitely delighted in made plain by the episode I have recounted. But it is made plainer by the fact that the regime lines its western borders, land and sea, with guards and guns, electrified fences and lethal mines, watchtowers and dogs and pursuit vessels, all intended not to keep invaders out but to keep the regime's citizens in.

When the Berlin Wall was built I thought, and I have never seen reason to revise my view, that the standard excuse

for it among Soviet apologists in the West—that it was justified because of the "brain drain" of East Germans—was the most squalid item the fellow-travellers' repertoire had ever compassed. Students of such matters will have noticed that in recent years the line has changed; now we are expected to believe that it is an immensely wealthy state, its citizens reveling in a standard of living that puts Stockholm and California to shame. Some might say that if the new line is true, the Wall has become something of an anomaly, but I have not detected many suggestions that it should now be demolished, and I have even less expectation that it actually will be.

In the end, we have to turn to that much (and ill) used word: empathy. It should be possible, by an effort of the moral imagination, to put ourselves in the position of that family, so that we can see the

beach from which they set out, feel their hearts beating with fear and resolution, look upon the sea that faced them, entrust our minds, as they their bodies, to a bubble of air and a film of rubber, and set off with them into the darkness. Beyond that it would be indecent to follow them, to death and deprivation; and beyond that, it is unnecessary to follow them; two, at any rate, reached the freedom that is so familiar to us that most of us have no idea why it is so precious, and that some work day and night to stamp out. But if we can get far enough towards merging our feelings with the feelings of a family to whose death was an acceptable alternative to communism, we shall understand two things it is important to understand—more important, it may be, than we know.

First, we shall be virtually immune to all the lies, all the breathlessly enthusiastic travelogues, that the servants and fellow-travellers of totalitarianism pour out incessantly. Next time one of them is telling me that the system is of course different from ours, but in its way valid, and that it seems to people who live under it seem to like it, all we have to do is to close our eyes; then we can hear the waves lapping, feel the cold, see the darkness, and remember that the waves, the cold, the darkness and the death, were considered preferable to continuing to exist under Soviet communism. And in a single moment the whole edifice of deceit will vanish like a nightmare at dawn. That is one half of what we

may gain from the exercise in empathy that I have proposed. The other half is even more important. By trying to feel what that family felt, we can remind ourselves of what is in some ways the most wonderful and extraordinary of all the attributes of man, the inextinguishable spark of freedom in his soul. For what did that family know of freedom? East Germany went direct from Nazism to Communism; today, a citizen of that repulsive hellmouth would have to be 65 to have lived as an adult in a free society; a Soviet citizen would, of course, have to be much older. And yet in both there are men and women who divine what freedom is, though all their lives they have been denied it, and seek it though they perish in the search.

So the story of the family that fled together and died apart can teach us something of enduring value; which is that the most valuable thing of all is also the most enduring. Just as science reaches us that matter, however many times we change its form, is ultimately indestructible, so we can see that at the core of man's being is a rock that, though it can be cracked, is not crushed, ground to powder, cannot be made to disappear; and it was upon that living rock that five human beings set sail into the Baltic. And eloquent testimony to its eternal strength is given by a woman and her son who live now in Federal Germany; and by a man and his two daughters who sleep now beneath the Baltic waves.

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Unions must act for the members, not the Government

March 5 marked the beginning of the fourth year since the Conservatives lost office following defeat in what was widely regarded at the time as their "confrontation with the unions." On that anniversary, the largest gathering to date of active Conservative trade unionists was held in Nottingham and the importance which the party attaches to their views was witnessed by the presence of Mrs Thatcher.

After the February election, many people feared that the Conservatives would react to defeat by refusing to listen to the unions' views, by laying the blame for the country's ills at the door of Congress House and by setting out on a divisive course of antipathy and hostility towards trade union aims and structures. Instead, the party has sought to listen to what trade union leaders have had to say, at local as well as national level and to argue constructively with them; to point out to the unions that the present relationship with Government has many elements which are not in the national interest, and may not be in theirs; and to provide encouragement and assistance to the many people already working for a more common sense view and who want to see these views reflected in their union's policies and leadership, while reassuring those who have deep rooted objections to belonging to the labour movement that their right to work will be protected.

I believe now that there was a widespread feeling that the difficulties with the unions were symptomatic of a failure to get the relationship with the unions right. As citizens, we tend to want governments to achieve two things in their dealings with the unions. On the one hand we want the Government to govern and not hand over their duties and responsibilities to the unions. And on the other we want them to concede union demands if these seem justified and if we are being inconvenienced by the effects of industrial action.

It is very difficult for any government to reconcile these two demands in a complete success. Paradoxically the close ties between the Labour Party and the trade unions may actually make it more difficult for them to get the balance right.

They are torn between demonstrating independence from the unions and reviving the historical links. Thus, it was a Labour Attorney General who, much to the horror of the TUC, invoked a widely ignored wartime regulation in 1957, and prosecuted seven dockers for striking on a picket line. While 26 years later, when the Post Office workers threatened to commit a plain breach of the law, many believe that his successor refused to act because of his fears of industrial action which could have undermined the present social contract relationship between the Government and the TUC.

The social contract is effectively the price paid by Labour's leaders to win back the union support alienated by the last demonstration of independence when the 1966 Government adopted pay limits and proposed legal reform of union activities. Power to decide policy, first in Opposition and later in office, was handed over to the TUC/Labour Party Liaison Committee and their proposals—ranging from the regulation of the terms of entry to the NEC to the establishment of the British National Oil Corporation—were put into effect whatever the views of Parliament, the employers or the nation.

Fortunately such an approach cannot survive. The pursuit of socialist policies, costly and economic reality, which first forced the unions to accept pay limits, is now making the Government pay less heed to the advice of the Liaison Committee. There is no prospect of the latest proposals for that, because they would cost £1,000 million a year to the National Enterprise Board, setting up a National Transport Planning Authority or introducing new social benefits—being implemented in present circumstances. The unions are faced with the dilemma of going along with the Government's new policies of spending cuts and industrial incentives at the risk of alienating their members or of responding editorially to the Government.

But they got the National's listings in a muddle on March 6, so the theatre asked for the substitution of the simple instruction which appeared on March 13.

The situation will be righted by the disappearance from the daily paper listings of reference to the Sunday Times. Although the full listing does still appear in the other Sunday, Mr. Youn, if readers of *The Sunday Times* pay any regard to the views of their theatre critic, there cannot be much at the National that they want to see.

Saints alive
St Enoch and St Mung, the two most popular live preachers in Christendom, yesterday resumed the dialogue in the twin pulpits of St Marylebone Church, where they had last met without coming to a decision six years ago. The theme was God and Caesar (relating duties owed to each). Before a rather more than capacity congregation of two angelic archangels, Powell and Muggidge, danced an elegant minuet on the point of a pin to music that was more religious than secular.

ing to the growing clamour from the rank and file to cease co-operating with the Government.

Despite this, we must all hope that agreement can be reached on a further year of pay restraint—an interim year—which can help reduce our rate of inflation and improve our competitiveness and job prospects.

The level of unemployment is a disgrace to a civilised society and pay restraint, help, but whatever the form of incomes control, the days of the social contract arrangement must now be numbered.

Can the Conservatives do better? The activities of the growing number of Conservative trade unionists and many others like them, allied with the common sense in the nation's present crisis, have already reflected in more realistic bargaining—not perhaps most visibly at national level, where it matters at local level.

Many trade unionists recognize that the activities of some of their leadership, concerned more with political power than the improvement of real standards of living, have helped to leave us trailing far behind the living standards of countries like France and Germany. This cannot go on. Our Conservative trade unionists stressed at their conference the paramount importance of production of differentials for skill, and incentives for hard work and responsibility. That is why they call for tax reductions and more cost-conscious public services.

As far as relations with the TUC and union leaders are concerned, Conservative ministers would discuss and consult with them in precisely the way that they would and should with other important groups and individuals in society. Naturally in employment matters and particularly in industrial affairs where they have great experience, knowledge and interests, their views are especially important and relevant. But no policy would be barred from discussion. It is vital that we know what is in their mind and vice versa. We need to avoid above all it being said that if only you told us it would not work.

Of course our relationship will be different from that of the present Government. We shall have some important, perhaps fundamental, differences that it is the prosperity and benefits of the nation that we obtain at grass root level which decides union policy. They haven't had much to cheer about in the past three years and will be giving us a fair wind to see what we can do.

All of this would mean less power over the direction of the nation's affairs for the leaders of major unions than they had in March, 1974. But what power they had is visibly slipping away at present and the TUC/Government relationship finding themselves reduced to a series of policies, not least in the field of public expenditure, with which they fundamentally disagree. They are becoming Mr Healey's poodles.

I doubt if after this experience there would be much enthusiasm on the union side for such a dominant role. They may find the relationship offered by a Conservative Government more attractive as a long-term arrangement. It would be based on mutual respect and it would offer them an influence that would be lost because it would be a compromise of their independence or their freedom. Because union leaders would neither be, nor thought to be, the real authors of government policy they would be free to respond to the needs and demands of their members and they would not shoulder the blame for the difficult decisions that will undoubtedly have to be taken in the coming years by government—or for the mistakes.

It is certainly an arrangement which would be a balance between the wishes of the nation, between the right of government to govern on the one hand and the duty to avoid unnecessary industrial conflict on the other.

James Prior
The author is Conservative spokesman on employment.
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A new script for the Rhodesia saga?

And it came to pass, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistines. ... The decision by the Foreign Secretary to make a tour of Southern Africa next month, marks the opening of a new chapter in the long serial on Rhodesia.

Where so many stalwart champions have failed—Mr Ivor Richard being merely the latest heavyweight to go down—can Dr David Owen succeed?

Well, let us admit at the start that no one, in Whitehall or Washington, has any very clear idea at present about how to settle the Rhodesian problem. After so many attempts, so many words, so many travels across the continent of Africa, the prevailing feeling is one of purgation.

Nevertheless, the Carter administration wants to make an effort in Africa. This is partly because the President feels a strong commitment to helping the people of Rhodesia and Namibia attain their human rights, partly a strong sense of obligation to his black constituency back home. The administration wants to be seen, not just standing there, but doing something—but what?

If there was a temptation in London, among some members of the Cabinet, to pass up the legal responsibility for Rhodesia on the ground that Britain had done all that could be reasonably expected, the American enthusiasm quenched it quickly. It was made clear that Britain was expected to go on in pursuit of a settlement.

It follows from this that nothing will be ventured without American cooperation, in the fullest sense. Dr Kissinger, master of the diplomatic game, that he was, did after all drop the British in the stew, by claiming to have got African approval for his plan, when all that had happened was a few rapid assurances that had been obtained from third parties over the telephone. In future, Anglo-American cooperation will be tighter.

There has, moreover, already been one most significant development since the Carter team took office. Mr Smith's plan for an interim settlement, some sort of deal with the "moderate" African chiefs, has been categorically rejected by the administration. With the House of Representatives' vote at the beginning of this week to renege on the ban on Rhodesian chrome, Mr Smith and his colleagues must be

aware that Washington is serious.

Mr Smith had been hoping that the South African would persuade the Americans to back his internal solution. That option seems closed. In any case, Bishop Muzorewa, whom Mr Smith hoped he could lure over to his side, left no doubt that such an approach was not acceptable. It could only work on conditions which all the African nationalists could endorse.

Mr Smith still wants a settlement, on the lines of the Kissinger plan, though he obviously considers it as a way of maintaining Rhodesian Front supremacy. Certainly he has not given any real hint that he appreciates that the plan has now been superseded. Moreover, despite optimistic reports about killing terrorists, there is some sign that the military strain is taking its toll in Rhodesia, and that the security forces are becoming very stretched.

At the same time, the Namibian question is coming up fast, and may well take precedence over negotiations on Rhodesia's future. The talks in Turnhalle have produced a draft constitution for an interim government in Namibia, which the South West African People's Organisation, operating outside the country, totally rejects. As the West, indeed the UN as a whole, is committed to full independence for Namibia, this is likely to cause friction with South Africa, at the very time when Dr Vorster's support is needed in budging Mr Smith.

Dr Owen, rightly, is not prepared to accept a "trade off" between Namibia and Rhodesia, but believes that a solution must be found for each country on its merits. The link between the two, in time and well as geography, may be awkward.

In the light of all this, it is not easy to prescribe what the next steps should be. The best thing, the British and Americans conclude, is to keep the dialogue going. Hence the decision by Dr Owen to visit Southern Africa. He comes to the problem fresh, as he says, and believes that in any job there is no substitute for seeing things for yourself, to get to know the man behind the policy. He is not going to Salisbury despite yesterday's invitation, but may see Mr Smith in Cape Town. Talks about talks are better than talks about talks.

David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

How Bullock proposals could harm British industry

Supporters of the Bullock majority report repeatedly cite the West German workers' directors as justification for the Bullock proposals but neither Bullock, nor anyone else has spelled out fully the fundamental differences between the German system and the British system.

The likeness of Bullock to the German system is invalid for two reasons: First—the German industrial participation system is democratic and has been very carefully constructed from the bottom up over a period of more than 50 years. Bullock, however, without there first being in existence a proper participation sub-structure throughout British industry, would force onto all our major companies, from the top, theoretical and untried procedures, against the wishes of managers and boards. These procedures are undemocratic, divisive and patently impractical since the idea is to throw off boards, directors whose proven value has earned their promotion to the board and replace them with others whose only qualification is that they stand in favour with their union. (In my own company 14 highly valued and experienced directors would lose their board appointments, including a Swiss who has devoted 20 years of his life to the promotion of British exports on the Continent.)

Secondly the comparison pays no attention to the major differences in the legal, trade union, and political systems of Germany and the UK. The vital for the future of our industries that their disparities be made abundantly clear.

Designed to protect investment

It is crucial to the understanding of the German structure to appreciate that it is the works councils which exist in virtually all German companies and which are elected by secret ballot, and not the worker directors which only exist in some companies, that provide such a strong basis for participation and industrial democracy in Germany. Every employee, whether or not he is a member of a union or not.

German company law provides for a two-tier board, the supervisory board, each with clearly defined duties. In companies employing 2,000 or more a

Could not work effectively

Under Bullock, a committee of shop stewards could simply nominate directors to replace themselves on the basis of "Buggins's turn next". Further, the two-tier board system provides freedom for the managing director and the management board, supported by a strong works council, to give the company what it needs for its future. The supervisory board can fire the managing director but it cannot give him orders.

Worker directors in Britain, in their capacity as trade union officials, would have an unduly narrow, legal, professional and unparalelled in Germany or any other country. There are many other features without which the German system could not work effectively. Here are some of them:

(a) There are only 16 industrial unions in Germany as against 488 in Britain of which 111 are affiliated to the TUC.
(b) With very few exceptions, there is only one union per company. For example, ICI has 24 unions in Britain but only one in Germany.
(c) Agreements between employers and trade unions are legally binding and enforceable.
(d) Strikes are illegal unless 75 per cent of the membership

has voted in favour in a secret ballot.

(e) Union membership is voluntary. Closed shops are illegal because they contravene the principles of human rights in the Constitution.

(f) The unions must be independent of any ties to a political party or organization.

(g) Strikes, even when approved by a 75 per cent majority in a secret ballot, are illegal if they are: in breach of a collective agreement or individual contract of employment; not for the purpose of adjusting working conditions; but against someone else (eg "sympathy" strikes); or before conciliation procedures have been exhausted; in furtherance of political aims; conducted with intent to cause loss to the employer "in violation of public morals". This could arise if, for example, fishermen were to strike, or the aim was to induce an employer to dismiss an employee who refused to join a trade union.

It must be emphasized again that the key to participation in Germany is the works council, not worker directors, and I cannot do better than quote the personnel director of Audi Motor Car Company, lecturing in Harrogate to the Institution of Personnel Managers.

At the start of his lecture he said he had been talking previously to some of the people at the conference, and he felt that many people were expecting him to talk about supervisory boards in Germany in the framework of participation. He said he did not intend to discuss supervisory boards at all. They had nothing to do with participation in Germany because participation meant works councils.

Members of the works council are bound by law to secrecy regarding trade administration matters which the employer has expressly stated to be confidential. There are sanctions against any breach of confidence.

The employer and the council are not allowed by law to exercise any veto or lock-out against each other which might prejudice normal working or industrial peace. Both sides must refrain from any political activity inside the establishment.

Bullock refers to European experience with worker directors but carefully omits the

fact that in every case the shareholders' representatives retain control of the board. Otherwise investment, particularly foreign investment, would dry up. If the shareholders' representatives could be outvoted, as they could under Bullock, then dividends on the shares would be reduced or even withheld altogether, and the value of shareholders' property lowered in other ways; or, as the minority report put it: "By contrast, we doubt very much whether the investors would develop their operations in the UK if their plans could be frustrated at any time by their being outvoted by a majority of employee-elected representatives and co-directors who might have been appointed by a UK Government agency."

I have heard already of a major American investment in Britain which has been put off because of the possibility of Bullock coming into force. Therefore, the sooner the Government makes clear that in the event of legislation shareholders' representatives will retain control of the board the better for foreign investment in the United Kingdom.

Britain's prime requirement

However, if the Bullock Report could result in German-type works councils (or, as I prefer to call them, employee councils) being set up throughout British industry, this would be a worthwhile and major advance, as I know from 11 years' experience of running a company in Germany. This is the prime requirement for the situation in Britain.

With our multiplicity of unions, the difficulty is to have an employee council in some unions refuse to sit down with others—not to mention non-union employees. Yes, somehow or other this must be brought about if industrial participation is to make sense and grow soundly.

To foist worker directors onto unitary boards by law would be to set back British industry. A recent market research survey poll showed that even 79 per cent of trade unionists are against the compulsory imposition of worker directors.

Sir Emmanuel Kaye
The author is chairman of Lansing-Bagnall Ltd.

The Times Diary

Standing up to the pressures

It is a coincidence that Grace Wyndham Goldie's book about the influence of television on politics should be published tomorrow, in the week in which there have been allegations that the BBC has encouraged IRA terrorists. The criticism of the BBC arose from a *Tonight* programme this month in which two men complained that they had been tortured by Ulster police.

Mrs Wyndham Goldie says much in her book about the needs for television and the press to resist pressure to present only the Government's side of a contentious issue. And yesterday, when I spoke to her in her small, book-lined Kensington flat, she made the point again in relation to the *Tonight* controversy.

"I did not see the programme," she said, "but from what I have read I would not have been disappointed at it. Always there is pressure from people in authority to have only their views noted."

"Surely the whole business of journalists, including tele-

vision journalists, is to put over facts as they see them, regardless of what precise effect they may have." She would make an exception only in the case of an incident like a kidnapping, where it was sometimes justifiable to suppress a report to gain a clear, precise and limited objective.

"But you can't, over a long period, say: 'Don't put out anything which goes against our policy.'"

Mrs Wyndham Goldie, whose new book is called *Facing the Nation*, speaks with the authority of a former head of BBC television talks and current affairs, a post from which she retired in 1965. During her career of nearly 30 years with the corporation, there was one incident which stood out as an example of the BBC resisting pressure to conform to the Government's line.

This was the Suez affair of 1956, in which the late Sir Anthony Eden, then Prime Minister, became furious at the BBC's insistence that the views of those opposed to the Suez

landings should be aired on radio and television, and even on the External Services. Mrs Wyndham Goldie's involvement was in the question of whether to allow Hugh Gaskell, leader of the Opposition, to reply to Sir Anthony's explanation of the landings.

Long memoranda—the famous "four of communication" at the BBC, to judge from the book—flew around and between Broadcasting House and Lime Grove. Anguished reference was made to the aide memoir of 1947 which, until succeeded by a further aide memoir in 1969, had the authority of the holy scripture in matters relating to political broadcasting. In the end, the BBC defied Sir Anthony's threats and allowed Gaskell to make a television broadcast—though by the time he did so the Government had already decided to accept American pressure for a cease-fire.

Mrs Wyndham Goldie believes that politicians still do not take television sufficiently seriously, in spite of the fact that people's impressions of a politician are nowadays based mainly on what they see of him or her on the screen. Labour people take it more seriously than Conservatives—possibly because they feel they do not get fair showing in the newspapers.

"Harold Wilson", she said, "took it very seriously indeed, but I didn't think he used it well because, like most politicians, he saw television as a tool to use rather than as a means of giving evidence to the voters."

"Like most ministers he liked to speak with the apparatus of officialdom behind him. That's why they like to speak from Downing Street rather than come down to the studio for an interview."

She is uneasy about James Callaghan's plans to answer viewers' questions on *Nationwide* next week. "Fire-side chats and phone-in programmes are terribly misleading to the public," she points out. "I don't like the public being misled."

"They're misleading because they create an expectation in the public of simple answers. Communication that politicians can't give. Politicians couldn't and shouldn't tell the absolute truth about questions they're asked over the phone."

"There should be some way of saying at the beginning: 'Look, you may ask what you like, but in practice the politician has to give a simple answer what they want to.'"

Mrs Wyndham Goldie, a pleasant woman of uncertain age who worries a lot about seeming pompous, is enjoying launching her book, especially when it involves visiting her old stamping grounds.

"I'm going for an interview at Lime Grove this week," she said. The girl who rang me to fix it said: "I said I didn't think that would be necessary."

The Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 1975 took place in Jamaica, not in Ottawa as I reported yesterday.

What's on?

An alert reader in Scotland has spotted a C 82 in the play listings for the National Theatre in recent days. Looking them up in *The Sunday Times*, he found the simple message: "For repertoire see daily press."

So he waited until *The Times* arrived on Monday and found a sketchy listing, with the advice underneath: "NT's full rep in Sunday press."

At the National, I was told that the confusion arises from a boycott on the part of the *Sunday Times* organized by the Society of West End Theatres (SWET)—surely one of the toughest trade bodies in existence. The boycott, to which the National belongs, objects to a recent increase in the paper's rates for theatre advertising.

The old rate of five free lines and 50p a line per advert has been increased to £2.25 a line, still with five free

do you want the crystal ball for £1, dear, or the ton leaves for £2?



This compares with four free lines and 50p a line in *The Observer* and 50p a line, with one free, in *The Sunday Telegraph*. These have substantially lower circulation than *The Sunday Times*.

In order to keep its readers informed, *The Sunday Times* is printing its theatre listings as

editorial matter, for nothing. But they got the National's listings in a muddle on March 6, so the theatre asked for the substitution of the simple instruction which appeared on March 13.

The situation will be righted by the disappearance from the daily paper listings of reference to the Sunday Times. Although the full listing does still appear in the other Sunday, Mr. Youn, if readers of *The Sunday Times* pay any regard to the views of their theatre critic, there cannot be much at the National that they want to see.

Saints alive
St Enoch and St Mung, the two most popular live preachers in Christendom, yesterday resumed the dialogue in the twin pulpits of St Marylebone Church, where they had last met without coming to a decision six years ago. The theme was God and Caesar (relating duties owed to each). Before a rather more than capacity congregation of two angelic archangels, Powell and Muggidge, danced an elegant minuet on the point of a pin to music that was more religious than secular.

St Enoch averred that the interval since they last preached together had been a long, hard six years both in Caesar's world and for Christians. St Mung was curious

about the precise proportion of duty owed to Caesar, and supposed that he felt he owed a minimal tribute to Caesar compared with St Enoch. Did the latter feel that his loss had devoted service to Caesar had been successful and worthwhile?

St Enoch: "No politician at the end of or at any stage of his career believes that he has succeeded. He lives with other people and finds them formidable for living through a particular period."

He said that the antithesis of God and Caesar was a false one, because Caesar is a creature of God, and he suspected the bit about rendering unto God of being an interpolation. Christ's answer to the question of duty was: "If you put a full stop after 'the things that are Caesar's', they agreed to resume the dialogue in six years either at St Mary's or in a higher place."

Having previewed the election for a new chairman of Democrats Abroad on Monday, I can now announce the result. Edward Rickless, a lawyer whom I described as a conservative, was elected. He is in the same liberal and humane tradition as Carter took the honours after a second ballot.

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END OF THE RYDER PLAN

British Leyland is the paradigm of the problem that affects so much of British large-scale industry. At the same time it presents a massive political problem for the Government and for Mr. Scammon and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Few union presidents can have been given a more dis- respectful hearing from their own members than that accorded last Friday to Mr. Scammon, when he tried to put the cold facts to his toolroom workers at the mass meeting at Birmingham. In the most direct sense, the authority of the union is under challenge from this group of its higher paid workers. For the Govern- ment, the Leyland crisis is by far the severest test to date of its industrial strategy.

Two quite separate issues have come together in the present crisis. The first is related to incomes policy and its possible extension after July. The second concerns the continuation of British Leyland in its present form. As for the first, it is a depressing characteristic of the British economy that it pays low wages and delivers low produc- tivity, the way out cannot lie through continual wage restraint. A return to free collective bar- gaining, provided that it is in the context of continued mon- etary restraint and a refusal by the Government to underwrite

irresponsible settlements, is now fully due.

As for British Leyland itself, no government could con- template the sudden end of mass car production by British Leyland. Apart from the immediate effects on unemploy- ment, the direct impact on the component industry and the indirect cut in spending power would cripple the economies of the Midlands and of the Cowley- Oxford area. The effect on the trade balance would be similarly unacceptable. To that extent, the militant toolroom workers are right in thinking that the Gov- ernment's room for being tough in the short run is limited. It is a long time, however, the point has now been reached where the future of the car division of British Leyland has to be thought out anew. It is no longer possible for the Govern- ment, or the National Enterprise Board, to continue on the basis that the Ryder plan for British Leyland provides a credible framework for day-to-day, or long-term, decisions. The present dispute has brought matters to a head, but this judgment would now hold even if full production were resumed everywhere in British Leyland tomorrow.

Whether Lord Ryder's plan for British Leyland ever had a realistic chance of being fulfilled is now an academic question. It was based on the assumption

that British Leyland would be able to generate cash to match government money for new in- vestment programmes at a level only possible if it became the most profitable car manufacturer in Europe. It was known at the time that there was substantial overcapacity in the car industry in this country. Then it looked as if Chrysler (UK) was in the weakest position. In the inter- vening period there has been no evidence that British Leyland can perform better than Ford, Vauxhall or Chrysler. Thus, while closure of British Leyland in any immediate sense is eco- nomically impossible, future policy towards the group will now have to be based on two principles.

The first is that the mass car division should not be allowed to drag down the more effective operations, such as the trucks and buses, the special products and the quality cars. The unified structure of British Leyland should, therefore, now be reviewed. The second is that all new investment in the project should be shelved, until there is positive proof that the car division can effectively produce its present range of volume car models. The Government and Lord Ryder will have a political difficulty in con- ceding publicly that the Ryder plan is now a dead letter. But there can be no further point in fudging the issue.

THE BBC'S IRISH TROUBLES

The BBC perceives Northern Ire- land as a part of the kingdom where communities and govern- ments are in conflict, and where there is not to be found that degree of political consensus which alone makes possible the operation of democratic institu- tions without coercion. It sees the duty of public service broad- casting in such conditions as being to report and reflect the conflict in all its manifestations. It sees both communities as part of its constituency, and to preserve its credit with both it must not become the partisan of either. This way of looking at its role reinforces the BBC's in- stinct to maintain its autonomy and never allow itself to become an instrument of political authority.

Mr. Airey Neave, the Opposi- tion spokesman on Northern Ireland, perceives the province as "a part of the kingdom on the brink of civil war where the British Government is fighting a ruthless group of terrorists with marxist aims". The detachment which the BBC displays leaves him with the impression that it is not really on the side of the civil power, a dereliction of its duty in the face of violent sub- version of constitutional govern- ment.

Both those perceptions of Northern Ireland are valid. The turbulence which the province has suffered over the last eight years parades of both charac- teristics, one approximating to a state of political irreconcil- ability, the other to a state of war or at least a emergency. The attitudes expected of objective broadcasting or journalism in those two extremes are not precisely the same.

This double focus in which the conflict in Northern Ireland is held is part of the reason why the presentation of news and analysis from there is something exceptionally difficult to get right, and part of the reason why so much criticism now beats about the head of the BBC.

The BBC's own understanding of its role in Northern Ireland is altogether preferable to that towards which Mr. Neave's analysis seems to lead him. But his misgivings are not simply to be brushed aside. A state is a social organism. All its important working parts are implicated in its continuous striving for equilibrium. None can affect total detachment from that process. The BBC is not "above

the battle" in Northern Ireland, if only because what it does or does not do is part of the material of the conflict. It has to justify its conduct to itself and to others in terms of the general interest of the society of which it is such an important organ.

By his perception of the con- flict as something like a state of war Mr. Neave is misled towards the conclusion that the public interest requires the BBC posi- tively to assist a war effort, especially in the line of propa- ganda. In fact the general public interest is better served by the kind of objectivity and indepen- dence the BBC seeks to main- tain. For it is only by adhering to that stance that the BBC—like a newspaper, but with the dif- ferent impact of broadcasting— can well perform these useful functions: the forestalling of rumour by the rapid reporting of events; offering a source of news capable of commanding the trust of members of both com- munities; exposing the views and passions and personalities belonging to every party in the conflict; the inspection of every other party; assisting people elsewhere in the kingdom towards a better understanding of the nature of the Irish im- passe and a truer measure of its stubbornness; uncovering abuses by the forces of authority, and providing the check against abuses which the possibility of such disclosure constitutes.

It is sometimes suggested that all a newspaper or broadcasting organization needs to guide it along that path is a fully culti- vated sense of news values and strict attention to professional practice in gathering and pre- senting the news. There are passages in the mostly convincing apologetic Mr. Richard Fran- cis, the BBC Controller in Northern Ireland, gave as a Chatham House lecture last month which left an impression that that is his view of the mat- ter. Other passages indicated that Northern Ireland is worked by the BBC with special criteria and with a great deal of atten- tion to the likely consequences of what is to be broadcast.

So it should be. Broadcasting is an active as well as a reactive occurrence in any situation of conflict; and in conditions as extreme and lethal as those in Northern Ireland the broadcaster is not absolved of his duty to weigh the consequences of what

he does by close attention to standard professional practice. It is in that area of controversy that the screening of the *Tonight* programme of allegations of gross abuses by RUC interro- gators is caught.

The *Tonight* team came upon those allegations by chance. They checked them to a point at which they became satisfied with their authenticity. The RUC could offer no comment since the matters alleged were the subject of formal investigation not yet complete. After deliberation the BBC decided to go ahead, and the exceedingly damaging allegations were given wide currency. The RUC at the time were under notice from the Provisional IRA that their members would be picked out to be murdered. The consequences of the broadcast have been such as were to be expected. The RUC is shaken. Many of those who look to it in hope, and with much sympathy, as a defence against anarchy are furious. Politicians in Belfast and London have been hopping up and down. The provisionals have cunningly exploited the consternation. Mr. Mason has called on the RUC to expedite its inquiries into the allegations.

The BBC decided to go ahead without waiting for the result of the official investigation, and therefore precluded the RUC from challenging or commenting on the allegations, because of the gravity of the abuses alleged, because they introduced a suspicion of system at the inter- rogation centre, because its experienced staff was satisfied of the complainant's bona fides, because by then not to have gone ahead would have invited the charge of "suppression", and because it thinks the standard procedure for investigating com- plaints against the police takes inordinately long. All good reasons, but were they suffi- cient? What interest was served by publicizing the allegations then (instead of waiting, with the film in hand, until it could be seen how the police had handled the complaint) sufficient to out- weigh the damage that has been done?

This was only one of many similarly difficult decisions which the BBC has had to take in its coverage of Northern Ireland where its record does not get much credit. And if it did not get this one right that credit is not lost nor is its general approach invalidated.

beyond a puntillio once im- portant. Where the plenipotentiary, Mr. Richard, could go with proposals a new Foreign Secre- tary can go with an open mind to make an assessment—as part of a total assessment to which his meetings with African leaders and to South Africa, must all contribute.

It would not be appropriate to include Rhodesia in the itinerary unless the United States concurred. But that could have been cleared. The Africans will have their objections, but they may well be more worried about African rather than white contacts. Dr. Owen could have made. (They probably regret their treatment of the Bishop already). Sooner or later an emissary will go to Salisbury. Dr. Owen is ensuring that when the time comes to operate, he will be relying on secondhand opinions of his patient's condition.

Splitting the Treasury

From Mr. Jeremy Bray, MP for Motherwell and Wishaw (Labour). The renewed proposal to split the Treasury reflects continuing concern about whether it is doing its job. But to split the Treasury may divert attention from the problems of economic management, and the means of tackling them, as it did 13 years ago. Debate has been concentrated on the control of public expenditure, where the failures and remedies have been obvious and unpopular. The greater failure and the more difficult problem have all along been in the making of economic policy, which sets the back- ground of public expenditure.

The problem has spread out in different directions. On the one hand it has become impossible to make economic policy without public discussion and agreement, not only with the TUC, but more widely. On the other hand the slogans and gimmicks have been shown to be superficial, and the methods of economic analysis have become highly technical. If people were to argue about how far it is possible to reduce the public sector, using five or six policy instruments, each with highly uncertain lags and effects, then they must be prepared to build, to test, and mathematically to throw around serious economic models, or to read the results of others doing so.

The requirement on the Treasury to publish forecasts and give public access to the Treasury model, which I moved and which was passed by Parliament against Treasury opposition, will help gradually to improve the quality of debate and of policy making. But as the Treasury have spent more on economic analysis and forecasting, ministers have become more critical about the errors of economic fore- casts, and the simplified errors of advice.

Ministers have expected too much, and officials have misdirected the apparatus. Officials should not say, "If you do this, that will happen", and then change their minds six months later when it does not. Instead ministers should say, "These are our priorities as between unemployment, inflation, public expenditure, taxation and the balance of payments. What should we do now, and why? How large adjustments should we expect to have to make, one way or the other, in six months and a year's time, with destabilizing the system? How far are our objectives likely to be fulfilled?" Such questions can be answered sensibly, even if the Treasury cannot do so at present.

For years the Treasury have neglected the development of the tech- niques of economic analysis. They failed to attend technical con- ferences. They did not read the more difficult technical literature. They failed to learn from best prac- tice abroad. They are still falling further behind the state of the art. They had no defence against the wave of naive single equation mon- etarism which has swept into the vacuum left by the omission of all monetary influences from their economic analysis. As a result policy appears to be increasingly destabiliz- ing the economy, and aggravating the prospects for inflation and in- vestment, as well as for unemploy- ment and public expenditure. Because of their interaction, and the need to maintain an overall view of both of the economy and of policy making, I do not myself believe it would help to split the Treasury. The Treasury needs constructive technical leadership, not leucotomy.

Ministers have chosen steadily to resist the suggestions I have made over the years to improve the apparatus of economic management, thinking they knew better, leaving another generation of officials to implement them five years later. This may be the normal cultural lag, but it is an indulgence by the Treasury which we cannot afford. There are widespread suspicions among ordinary voters of incompe- tence and dogmatism in the Treasury. So I must ask Ministers to carry their public expenditure White Paper through the House of Commons on Thursday without my support.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BRAY,
House of Commons.
March 14.

Arabs at universities

From Mr. J. A. Morrell. Sir, I have occasion to visit regu- larly the United Arab Emirates. I am constantly impressed by the genuine friendship that exists there towards this country. All the more alarming, therefore, to learn that there is a serious bias in our further education programmes which is forcing more and more young Arabs to attend universities in Russia and the United States.

It would be hard to exaggerate the loss of influence that would follow if this trend were to persist. The complaints against our system are widespread. We do not recognize the UAE certificates of education—even those these were instituted by a British Government. Students are therefore compelled to go through the whole gamut of British educational qualifications, *ab initio*, resulting in a seven or eight year period of further education. Secondly, the education curri- culum is inappropriate only to a fully developed and industrialized econ- omy. Although undoubtedly first- class in content it has limited applica- tion to emergent economies in which Arab graduates will have to find employment.

Thirdly it is suspected that private educational establishments have "cashed in" in a shameful manner by charging up to £4,000 for a nine-month induction course prior to taking a regular student's place at some £800 p.a. This vested interest is suspected of being a factor against much-needed change.

I am not an educationist. I am a business man. I am not report- ing titles-tattle, but serious com- ment from a number of good friends of Britain who feel that the situa- tion has not so far been recognized but which, once recognized, will be corrected.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. MORRELL,
8 Crosby Square, EC3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prosecution of Ulster terrorists

From the Attorney General. Sir, In a well-publicized weekend speech at Abingdon, Mr. Airey Neave, Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, stated that "the Attorney General seems to regard the security problems of Armagh as similar to those of Kent and Surrey" and that as a result "many big fish among the terrorists swim round with impunity". These remarkable allegations were unsupported by evidence and were wholly untrue. More important, however, they are likely to give aid and comfort to the terrorists and to create despondency amongst those who, often at great personal risk, seek to obtain and present to the courts the evidence required to prosecute terrorists to conviction.

The truth is that the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, for which I am responsible, works with con- spicuous courage, efficiency and success. Mr. Neave's ill-judged words, spoken in the shadow of the assassination of a member of the DUP's staff, could well cause some members of that staff and other persons responsible for law and order in Northern Ireland to wonder whether the risks which they take are justified. Let me, therefore, repeat, so that nobody can be in any doubt, that terrorists, those who organize them, those who assist them, those who harbour them and those who, having information about them, fail to report it to the police, are all liable to heavy penalties; and that whenever evidence proper to be brought before a court of law is available, such persons will be prosecuted, with, as the results prove, a very high chance of conviction.

In a further reference to myself as Attorney General, Mr. Neave stated that he "refused to create a new offence of terrorism". Mr. Neave knows very well that respon- sibility for legislation lies with the Secretary of State and not with the Attorney General. Indeed, only two

days before making his speech in Abingdon, he criticized the Secre- tary of State in the House of Commons for rejecting the Opposi- tion proposal for a specific offence of terrorism. Mr. Neave in reply made it absolutely clear that the proposal had been examined several times and had been rejected be- cause it would add nothing to exist- ing offences and would only serve the terrorists' interests by creating a distinction between "political" murders and other cold-blooded murders. The problem is not the range of offences nor the sufficiency of penalties. It is the obtaining of evidence to prove offences to the satisfaction of the courts. That is the function of the RUC and there are signs that it is enjoying growing success. Mr. Neave's mis-statements do not help.

Yours faithfully,
SAM C. SILKIN, Attorney General,
Royal Courts of Justice, WC2,
March 15.

From Mr. Ian Gow, MP for East- bourn (Conservative). Sir, In his letter published today (March 14), the distinguished journalist Mr. Nick Ross, writes: "Those of us who have worked regularly as journalists in Northern Ireland know that civilians are regularly maltreated by some mem- bers of the security forces".

This statement is explicit about his knowledge of maltreatment, and implies that he has evidence to support it.

Mr. Ross does not tell us whether he has forwarded such evidence to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. He has a clear duty to do so.

If he is not willing to provide that evidence, then he should with- draw the grave allegations which he makes—and at once.

Yours faithfully,
IAN GOW,
House of Commons.
March 14.

The professions and an incomes policy

From the President of the Pharma- ceutical Society of Great Britain, and others.

Sir, Discussions between the Govern- ment, the TUC and the CBI are now beginning to take place as a pre- lude to some form of pay restriction and taxation adjustment as part of the Government's policy for Stage III of an incomes policy. Once again, however, the government's prin- cipal concern is to make plans to restrict pay to bodies that do not represent the majority of those whose pay will be affected by the incomes policy.

Those professions to which we belong are themselves perhaps only a minority section of the community but nevertheless an important one—and one that has already suffered serious damage through the distor- tions, anomalies and even injustices of an incomes policy that has im- posed unreasonable and dispro- portionate burdens upon it. It may be that this was neither foreseen nor intended but such is the certain result of a misguided policy without including the professions in the process of consultation.

An advanced level of education, a sustained period of training con- tinuing long after the acquisition of formal qualification and the shouldering of heavy responsibility both to the consumer and to society generally have always been thought worthy of some recompense. We do not expect the results of the present incomes policy have been quite the opposite. No responsible section of the nation, and certainly not the members of our professions, would expect to be exempted from making sacrifices in the fight against inflation. We do not even hope for equality of sacri- fice in a desperate situation where some element of rough justice is inescapable if decisions are to be taken and endless arguments are to be avoided. But if the national interest is to be served there must be a reasonably fair balance of con- tribution.

This is not the occasion to set out detailed calculations of the relative decline in the standards of living of professional people, but a great deal of evidence has been produced over the past year to explain why many professional

workers no longer believe that they receive the fair reward for their education, skills and responsibilities which society has always thought it equitable and in the public interest to grant. Many professional workers have emigrated and an in- creasing number are making plans to go. Retirement as early and as quickly as circumstances permit is now common practice.

Most worrying of all, and most insidiously damaging to the national well-being, is the danger of an internal retreat to a condition of indifference or self-protection in which the traditional practice of professionals to put service before self-interest is eroded and the opportunity for leisure tends to be put above the satisfaction derived from rendering more than the minimum expected. The nation cannot afford to squander—wastefully—such an expensively produced and precious resource, especially in these diffi- cult times. We ask the Government to give appropriate weight to these considerations, and in doing so to consult the professions as necessary, before an already serious situation becomes even worse.

Yours faithfully,
I. P. BANNERMAN, President,
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

J. W. BAXTER, President,
Institution of Civil Engineers.
E. S. BOOTH, President,
Institution of Electrical Engineers.
J. C. CAMERON, Chairman of
Council, British Medical Association.
W. E. DUCKWORTH, Chairman,
Council of Science and Technology
Institutes.
C. P. FRANKLIN, President,
Royal Institution of Chartered
Surveyors.
GEOFFREY L. HOWE, Chairman of
Council, British Dental Association.
EWEN MEWEN, President,
Institution of Mechanical Engineers.
JOHN F. PHILLIPS, President,
Institute of Chartered Secretaries
and Administrators.
CHARLES PRINGLE, Chairman,
Council of Engineering Institutions.
C. N. THOMPSON, President,
Royal Institute of Chemistry.
March 14.

EEC sugar policy

From Lord Jellicoe. Sir, I was glad to see the letter from Lord Douglas of Barloch (March 12) deploring the "penal levy" which the European Com- mission has proposed on the pro- duction of high fructose syrups (isoglucose).

Lord Douglas mentioned that a factory to produce isoglucose in the London area has been erected by Tummel Refineries of which I am Chairman.

There are five main reasons why I regard the Commission's proposal as little short of scandalous. First, it would mean that invest- ment made in good faith within the Community would be rendered worthless. In the case of Tummel alone this amounts to £8m.

Second, it would deny to the European consumer a product for which there is a clear and growing demand.

Third, it would deny the Com- munity a new technology which is worth developing and which, if the Commission's proposal is accepted, may well become the monopoly of North America.

Fourth, the proposal has been produced "out of the blue" and with virtually no consultation with the European producers, actual or prospective.

Fifth, the proposal is in effect retrospective. It amounts to chang- ing the rules of the game in the middle of the game. It is perhaps this feature of it which I most deplore.

For all these reasons, I sincerely hope that the Commission will be asked to think again when the matter is considered by the Council of Ministers later this month.

I can appreciate that the pro- ducers of sugar beet in the Com- munity are worried about the in- roads which this new product could make into their markets. I am also well aware of the strength of the sugar beet lobby in Europe. Nevertheless, their fears would seem exaggerated given the fact that the

total production of isoglucose within the Community would amount on present plans to less than 4 per cent of EEC sugar production by the end of 1978. I am also aware of the mounting concern in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the Community about the growing sugar mountain in Europe. I am con- vinced, however, that the cause of this has nothing to do with iso- glucose and that the cure lies elsewhere than in the imposition of a penal levy on a promising new product.

I should perhaps make it clear that I write as a firm believer in the European idea and as a firm supporter of British membership of the Community.

Yours etc.
JELICOE,
House of Lords.
March 14.

Direct elections

From the Director of the Electoral Reform Society. Sir, Eric Heffer (March 11) is cer- tainly right about one thing: that if we have a party list system of election there will be the most acrimonious disputes about the order of each party's list.

Mr. Heffer should therefore urge that we use, instead, the single transferable vote—which can be applied to regional constituencies just as easily as a list system can. Each party could then have as many candidates as it liked, with- out risk of splitting its vote, and leave the voters to choose among them. Mr. Heffer would then have the pleasure of being able to nominate and to give preference to candidates (not necessarily con- fined to his own party) whose views on the EEC were similar to his own.

We should know for certain how many voters agreed with him, and the winners would be reflected in the electoral body.

Yours faithfully,
ENID LAKEMAN,
The Electoral Reform Society,
6 Chancery Lane,
Southwark, SE1.

The future of Mentmore

From Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, FBA, and the Duke of Grafton. Sir, The initiative of the National Trust in offering to hold Mentmore Towers is greatly to be welcomed. They are the only existing body with the expertise to run such a house with its fabulous collections and this would offer both a secure future. We feel strongly that this offer should be accepted by the govern- ment despite Mr. Shore's categorical statement last week, and Lady Birk's amplification in the House of Lords. It is clear from what Lord Donaldson said and from estimates by experts in the field of furniture that the objects at Mentmore are of the highest quality and that the DOE's case for maintaining one of the DES will have to start.

The lack of coordination between departments dealing with the Fine Arts is highlighted by the situation over Mentmore and we wonder if it is too much to ask that the Secre- tary of State for the Environment should look again at the Mentmore problem in conjunction with experts from his own department, from the DES and from outside bodies like the National Trust hitherto un- consulted. This could be regarded as an *amenable* and *honorable* way of the extremely short notice with which this problem was sprung on those concerned with our national heri- tage and the deplorable lack of consultation which this sorry tale has revealed.

Mr. Shore has said that £1m is the maximum which his department is prepared to produce from the Land Fund, and that the rest will have to come from private charity. This is a very shortsighted decision in view of the enormous earnings from tourism which perhaps show a better return than the car industry at the moment. We feel that to ask private charity to find £2m for some- thing which most experts regard as a governmental responsibility is immoral. If, however, the govern- ment is prepared to pay the capital cost of Mentmore—that is £3m payable to the Rosebery Estate by April 5, then we would be prepared to launch an appeal and enter into negotiations with the National Trust and the other interested parties in an attempt to fund the running cost and the opening of Mentmore to the public.

Yours sincerely,
NIKOLAUS PEVSNER,
Grafton, Victorian Society.
GRAFTON, Chairman, Joint Committee,
Society for the Protection of
Ancient Buildings, Georgian Group,
Victorian Society and Civic Trust.
March 15.

From Mr. Ian Curtis. Sir, Lord Eccles (March 14) misses the point. Of course it is deplorable that actors, musicians and writers are experiencing poverty and un- employment, that the Victoria and Albert is having opening problems, and the other things he lists; but these are temporary deficiencies which will all be right as the economy perks up. But if we let Mentmore go now, it will be gone for ever.

Yours truly,
IAN CURTIS,
Little Hatch,
Mersham,
Nr Ashford, Kent.

Statements on Rhodesia

From Mr. W. R. Ferris. Sir, I should like to correct some statements made by members of the House of Commons on February 3. The House was discussing the refusal of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to make immediate representations to the Government of Botswana for the return of 400 schoolchildren abducted from south- west Rhodesia.

Mr. Ian Evans (Aberdeen) is quoted in Hansard as stating that Bishop Lamont "was subject to false charges and interned". The Bishop, in fact, pleaded guilty to the four charges under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act, at the start of his trial. He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, to which sentence he appealed. He was never "interned" or detained in any way.

Sir Bernard Braine (Essex, South East) stated: "The 1961 Southern Rhodesian Constitution, which if it had been accepted by the Rhodesian electorate, might well have led to a far happier future for the country." The position is that the 1961 Constitution was accepted by the Rhodesian electorate in a referendum in which they voted overwhelmingly for its acceptance.

Mr. Joshua Nkomo, then leader of the Nationalist Group, also accepted the proposed constitution then shortly after reneged on it.

Thirdly, Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston-upon-Hull, Central) stated that in the trial of eight terrorists in August of last year, "the evidence was never published and the trial was in secret". This is not the case. Not only the evidence of the trial, but the judgment of the Appeal Court were published, and both trials were held in open court.

Yours faithfully,
W. R. FERRIS,
Director of Information,
PO Box 8150,
Cape Town, Rhodesia.

'The Times' reappears

From Miss H. M. Root. Sir, I believe that Mr. Collingwood (March 14) will find that his "Cambridge professor" was in fact Fry's Librarian who, after five years in prison under the Spanish Inquisition, returned to his students at Salamanca University in 1577 with the words "Decimus ayer . . ." (as we were saying yesterday . . .).

Yours faithfully,
HILARY M. ROOT,
18 Bywater Street, SW5.
March 14.

From Mr. Chaim Raphael. Sir, It was horrible when *The Times* was out of joint and this joint was out of *Times*.

Yours restored,
CHAIM RAPHAEL,
27 Langdale Road,
Hove.

DR OWEN NEEDS TO INFORM HIMSELF

It is surely a mistake for Dr Owen to refuse Mr. Smith's invitation to visit Rhodesia in the course of his factfinding trip to familiarize himself with the problems he faces in southern Africa. He may meet Mr. Smith in South Africa, but that will only familiarize him with the views and personality of Mr. Smith. It will not enable him to make any assessment of Mr. Smith's political position in white Rhodesia, notably in the apparently restive Rhodesian Front. It will not enable him to assess the non-Front whites. It will preclude him from seeing Bishop Muzorewa in his own set- ting, among his own advisers, and from considering his claim to represent the black majority. Yet these are all quite important bits in solving the southern African jigsaw.

Of course Mr. Smith's invita- tion rouses Foreign Office

suspensions. Mr. Smith is pushing himself forward, and he has proved so complete a march for the best politicians that can be sent against him from Britain, America or South Africa, that officials fears of falling into some humiliating trap are natural. But it is possible that anxiety prompts Mr. Smith's tourist offer. He rudely rejected Mr. Richard's proposals, but that does not mean he wants no more contacts, and Mr. Richard's experience forearms Dr. Owen. A sounding out of opinions and positions in the post-Kissinger phase, such as President Carter and Mr. Callaghan have sanc- tioned, must surely include an assessment of trends generally in Rhodesia.

It may be objected that Dr Owen cannot visit an illegal and hostile regime, that he would seem to give it standing. After Geneva we have surely got

beyond a puntillio once im- portant. Where the plenipotentiary, Mr. Richard, could go with proposals a new Foreign Secre- tary can go with an open mind to make an assessment—as part of a total assessment to which his meetings with African leaders and to South Africa, must all contribute.

It would not be appropriate to include Rhodesia in the itinerary unless the United States concurred. But that could have been cleared. The Africans will have their objections, but they may well be more worried about African rather than white contacts. Dr. Owen could have made. (They probably regret their treatment of the Bishop already). Sooner or later an emissary will go to Salisbury. Dr. Owen is ensuring that when the time comes to operate, he will be relying on secondhand opinions of his patient's condition.

Encouraging literature

From Mr. Robert F. Atkins. Sir, Charles Osborne's letter (March 11) includes comments on public libraries which cry out for rejoinders; I will confine myself to one only.

The public library service for which I am responsible certainly does encourage the production of

literature as an art form mainly by the purchase of virtually all first novels but also by acquiring new poetry and drama in both book and journal format. Sheffield City Libraries are not, I imagine, peculiar in this respect. Indeed, I would assert that many established "literary" authors owe something of their success to the fact that public libraries bought their early

works while individual would-be buyers showed their habitual cautious attitude towards the unfamiliar.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ATKINS,
Director of Libraries,
Sheffield City Libraries,
Central Library,
Surrey Street,
Sheffield.

H. PRICE
pon

Telford
has the space
and the people
for growing
companies

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Two bids passed to monopolies panel but Lonrho gets go-ahead

By Richard Allen
Associated Engineering's
sterilely contested bid for Serck, the valve and heat exchanger engineers, has been referred to the Monopolies Commission, by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

The announcement, which surprised the stock market and AE directors, came with the news that Mr Hattersley had decided not to refer the proposed merger between Lonrho and Dunford & Elliott.

At the same time, however, another contested bid—that by Sketchley for Johnson Group Cleaners—has been referred to the commission.

In the case of both AE and Sketchley, the reference has been made under "size of assets" criterion of the 1973 Fair Trading Act which enables Monopolies Commission investigation if the company to be acquired has assets of over £5m. The commission has five months to report in each case.

AE's nine-for-one share bid for Serck will now lapse and a spokesman for the bidding group said last night that the board will meet later this week to consider whether to return to the commission for approval of its forthcoming Sketchley bid.

Of the three merger proposals, Lonrho's £152m cash bid for Dunford & Elliott, which came as a counter move to Johnson & Hattersley's £11m share offer for the group, aroused the most controversy. Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, described the proposal as "an outrage".

However, it is thought that the Office of Fair Trading had noted that, in contrast to the situation at AE and Serck, there were no monopoly implications, while Dunford's management and workforce welcomed the move.

In the case of AE it is thought that there were worries that a merger would create an overlap of up to 50 per cent in certain markets—chiefly minor ones—and that major customers could be tempted to look for overseas suppliers under their policy of "second-sourcing".

At the same time, despite assurances from AE, the Office of Fair Trading clearly had in mind the ready "export" of the Serck workforce should future employment in certain compatible areas.

The Sketchley bid presumably provided a more simple issue. It is estimated that the two groups between them have between 25 and 40 per cent of the United Kingdom cleaning market and that the largest outside competitor controls only about 8 per cent.

There were worries, particularly, about local monopolies being created as well as about pricing policy in general.

The announcements caused sharp price movements in late stock market dealings. Associated Engineering jumped 6 1/2 p to 104p, while Serck fell back 5 1/2 p to 88p. Johnson Group Cleaners plunged 8 p in after-hours dealing to 37p, while Sketchley advanced 1 p to 62 1/2 p. Lonrho closed 2 p higher at 82p.

Mesa aims to develop Moray Firth oilwell

By Roger Vielvne
Energy Correspondent

Mesa Exploration Group, in which P & O has a 45 per cent stake, is to go ahead with the development of a small oilfield found in shallow water in the Moray Firth only 12 miles from the coast.

Mesa Petroleum, the operator for the group, said last night that after a feasibility study and the results of first three successful wells on block 11/30, it was seeking approval from the Department of Energy for its development plans, which should be ready by the end of next month.

It will be the first new oilfield development programme for several years, and could involve the construction of two steel production platforms and a pipeline.

Although the field contains only an estimated 200 million barrels of reserves, the shallow water—150 feet—and closeness to land, make it possible to develop the field for between \$150m and \$300m (at \$27m to £174m) a fraction of the cost for a similar sized field in much deeper water.

Mesa also announced last night that the fourth exploration well on the field designed to delineate the south-western boundary of the field had been abandoned. This did not affect the commercial prospects for the field and another exploratory well would be undertaken later in the year.

Mesa holds a 25 per cent interest in the consortium. Other shareholders are Kerr-McGee, 25 per cent; Hunt Oil, 20 per cent; Crestline Chelsea, 15 per cent; and P & O Petroleum, 15 per cent.

Chevron plans: Chevron Petroleum may reconsider its plans for placing a £45m order for a steel production platform at Highland Fabricators at Nigg Bay, off Aberdeenshire, following a vote yesterday by 700 of the workforce to continue a two-week strike.

Shop stewards had recommended that the 1,800 workers should end the strike, which is over the completion bonus for being built, also for Chevron. Bonuses of up to £850 had been offered but the men demanded a further £200.

Saudi setback: Bad weather in the Gulf during February has again prevented Saudi Arabia from achieving its plans to boost oil production to an average of 10 million barrels a day during the first three months of this year.

BP seeks gas in Canada

British Petroleum's Canadian subsidiary has acquired licences to explore for natural gas thought to lie above British Columbia coal reserves bought by the company in January.

Along with Alberta Eastern Gas, which has a 20 per cent stake in the venture, BP Canada has acquired exploration licences for \$Can1,522,990 (nearly £847,000) on nearly 23,000 acres of land in the Monksman foothills, near Dawson Creek, about 400 miles north-east of Vancouver.

BP has already found substantial quantities of natural gas in other leases in this area. Production testing of wells at Sukunka, Bullmoose and Mast established the possibility of producing 123 million cubic feet of gas a day from reserves estimated at 660,000 million cubic feet.

British Columbia Petroleum Corporation has announced plans to build a gas line and processing plant that would link the area to the main Canadian gas pipeline system.

Easing of short-term interest rates gives scope for further MLR cut

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

Continuing easier conditions in the money markets brought a number of short-term interest rates back into single figures yesterday for the first time since last spring. This, in turn, pointed tentatively towards scope for a further cut of half a point to 10 1/2 per cent in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate this week—should the authorities be prepared to see the rate lower.

The more relaxed conditions in money markets of late arise largely from the fact that the first has been that the Government is again operating in deficit, with disbursements exceeding receipts. The second is the fresh overseas demand for sterling and the third is the demand by buying overseas currencies for the reserves and, in effect, issuing sterling in order to prevent the dollar/sterling rate rising above \$1.72.

The third is the apparent lack of buoyancy in industrial demand for funds.

In addition, yesterday saw redemption of the £100m nominal Electricity 3 per cent stock.

Although little more than half this stock was probably left in the market, its redemption, together with last week's Treasury 5 1/2 per cent stock, has probably offset some two-thirds of last Thursday's claw-back of 1 per cent of Special Deposits (around £36m) from the banking system.

As a result of all this yields on three month Treasury bills fell to 9 31/32 per cent yesterday. Prime bank bills also dropped below 10 per cent for three to six month maturities and other rates were generally lower.

This week's batch of local authority yearling bonds were launched on a 10 1/2 per cent coupon, against 11 1/2 per cent last week.

The fall in the Treasury bill rate, if maintained through the tender at the end of the week, would indicate, under the market-related formula for establishing MLR, scope for a fall from 11 to 10 1/2 per cent.

It remains to be seen if the Bank will allow MLR to fall. It has stated that it would, exceptionally, feel free either to hold MLR or lower it only to a rate of its own choice.

Given the authorities' apparent wish to leave the Chancellor scope to offer further cuts in interest rates in the Budget, it may be that the Bank will deem this week exceptional and hold MLR or cut it by only 1 per cent.

One advantage of holding the rate at this stage would be to create a potential stick to wield over the discount houses should next week's VAT payments tighten money market conditions and force the houses to turn once more to the Bank for assistance.

A considerable amount may depend on activity in the foreign exchange market. A continued inflow of overseas funds might make it desirable to see interest rates lower if the Bank remains determined to prevent sterling from rising.

Also in the authorities' consideration will be the February money supply figures to be published tomorrow and more particularly, any indications on the subsequent trends from the March banking figures that are due to be made up today (though not published until early next month).

Top changes likely at Schroders

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

Top level changes at Schroders, one of the leading City merchant banking groups, are expected shortly.

Michael Verey is likely to say today that he will retire from the chairmanship at the annual meeting in May and that he will be succeeded by Lord Airie.

Lord Airie is 50 and the brother of Mr Angus Ogilvy, Princess Alexandra's husband. He has been on the board of Schroders since 1970 and is also chairman of the main operating arm of the group, merchant bankers J. Henry Schroder Wagg.



Mr Verey: expected to retire in May.

Since the departure at the beginning of February of Mr James D. Wolfensohn, who was brought in from Schroders' New York business in 1974 to be group executive deputy chairman, it has been widely assumed that Lord Airie would take over from Mr Verey who will be 65 in October.

This change and others likely to be announced today suggest that the difficult internal squabble at Schroders—one aspect of which concerned the possibility of Mr Wolfensohn taking over as chairman—has been peacefully resolved.

While Lord Airie gets the top job, Mr John Hull is expected to succeed him to the important position of chairman of J. Henry Schroder Wagg.

Moreover, Mr Hull, aged 52, a barrister who became well known in the City during his two-year tenure to 1974 as director-general of the Take-over Panel, will also become joint deputy chairman of Schroders.

The other joint deputy chairman is expected to be Mr John Bayley, group financial director who has spent some time recently with Schroders Inc and Henry Schroder Banking Corporation in New York.

Mr Verey's retirement from

Schroders suggests that another important post he holds, chairman of the Accepting Houses Committee, which represents the interests of the leading City merchant banks, will soon become vacant.

Since Mr Verey is giving up active merchant banking, it seems probable that he will retire from the chairmanship of the ABC, which he has held since 1974, in May.

One possibility is that he will be succeeded by Sir Robert Clark, a deputy chairman of Hill Samuel and chairman and chief executive of its banking group.

Mr Verey succeeded Mr Gordon Richardson as chairman of Schroders in 1972 when Mr Richardson became Governor of the Bank of England.

Although 60 when he took the chairmanship, Mr Verey agreed to go on until he was 65. His particular interest was to broaden the bank's international base.

He has been with the group for 43 years, having joined Helbert Wagg, one of the components of the present group, in 1934. He holds a number of directorships, including the chairmanship of Britton & Bates, the vice-chairmanship of Commercial Union, which he intends retaining after his retirement from Schroders.

Bonn boosts investment programme

From Peter Norman
Bonn, March 15

West Germany has decided to step up its planned infrastructure investment programme to more than DM15,000m (about £3,640m) in the period to the end of 1980 from the DM10,000m to DM12,000m level previously under discussion.

In an unexpected announcement Dr Hans Arpel, the Bonn finance minister, said this evening that public orders worth some DM3,300m would be placed this year to be followed by an order volume of about DM4,500m in 1978.

The programme, which is an important part of Bonn's plans to cut back unemployment, is due to be discussed by the cabinet a week tomorrow.

It will be carried out by the Federal Government together with the states and municipalities. At present it seems as if the Federal Government would contribute DM3,400m of the total and the states about DM5,400m.

N Sea ends stagnation in industrial output

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

Buoyant production figures from the North Sea oil and gas fields meant that industrial output rose in January by nearly 1 per cent, breaking the pattern of relative stagnation which has been in towards the close of last year.

At the end of January the industrial production index stood at 103.9, up a full point from its December level. In the three months from November to January the increase was 1.3 per cent on the previous three months.

The narrower index of manufacturing industries recorded a much smaller increase of only 0.3 per cent during the same three month period.

Most of the growth occurred in the oil and gas related sectors of the economy, which together account for about 11 per cent of the total weighting of industrial production. The mining sector (including oil production) recorded a 9.3 per cent increase in the three months to the end of January and gas, electricity and water industries had a 9 per cent growth.

Within the manufacturing industries, chemicals and textiles tared relatively well and metal manufacture bounced back in January after a sharp December drop. But growth in the engineering industries, which accounts for over 30 per cent of total industrial production, was fairly slow.

Comparison between the January and December figures is made more difficult by the distorting effects of the Christmas and New Year holidays, which clearly depressed production more than usual this year.

Because the holidays were unusually long, the seasonal adjustments seem not to have been sufficient to cope with the holidays, so it is quite possible that the latest figures understate December's output and thus make the improvement

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index for manufacturing production in January, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1970=100):

	All industries	Manufacturing
1975 Q1	104.7	106.1
Q2	100.3	100.5
Q3	99.7r	99.8r
Q4	100.5r	100.5r
1976 Q1	101.9r	101.9r
Q2	102.4	103.6r
Q3	101.6r	103.6r
Q4	102.8r	104.3r
1976 September	100.0	100.1
October	100.6	100.7
November	100.8	100.9
December	99.9	99.6
1976 September	102.5r	104.5r
October	102.5r	104.6r
November	103.0r	104.6r
December	102.9r	103.7r
January p	103.9	104.4

p provisional
r revised

ment in January greater than was really the case. For this reason, the three-month figures are probably a more accurate guide to the way production is moving and they show that the production levels of industry are growing, but only at a gentle rate.

What growth there is seems to be associated almost entirely with a rebuilding of stocks. During the three-month period, output of the intermediate goods industries (most notably fuel) went up 3 per cent. Production of the consumer goods industries went up by 0.6 per cent and, rather depressingly, investment goods industries increased their output only 0.2 per cent.

Although all the surveys suggest that investment will go up sharply this year, the expected increase does not so far seem to be reflected in extra output by British producers of capital goods.

Sir John bows out of 'the good life'

Sir John Davis officially wound up his 15-year chairmanship of Rank Organisation yesterday before a sympathetic audience of shareholders at a crowded annual meeting.

In many ways, Sir John was very much the ebullient, in-charge company chief. His quips and throw-away lines brought cheers and laughter from the meeting but the theme of his final statement was one of retrenchment and cash conservation.



Sir John Davis, left, and Mr Harry Smith, his successor as Rank Organisation chairman, at yesterday's meeting.

Asset sales worth £13m have been agreed since the October 31 year end, he revealed, borrowings have been cut by £17m while the improved profit which was developing in the second half of last year are continuing. "At the end of the first 16 weeks, we are ahead of budget which is an encouraging start to the year", he said.

Nobody at the meeting was in any doubt that Sir John still held the company in deep affection. He even hinted at the nostalgia he felt toward the sole voluble, and dissenting, shareholder who complained for several minutes on the subject of Rank's disengagement from the film industry. The same shareholders' speech, Sir John recalled, "lasted over half an hour" when he first chaired the meeting at South Street 15 years ago.

Sir John is, of course, now

70, and it is ironic that directors of that age can now stand for reelection once allowing them to continue in office until 73. Just before the meeting approved the re-election of Sir Robert Shone also 70-years-old, Sir John neatly thwarted a question on the apparent increase in the boardroom's age by pointing out that "we're investing in youth with Mr Harry Smith who, at 59, takes over the chair".

No hint of the management troubles of the past two years, the Dowson affair and the difficulties of the non-Xerox activities was allowed to come to the surface. Like the shareholders, Sir John's 16 main board colleagues and 12 divisional chiefs clapped him heartily as he wrapped up the meeting.

He allowed himself just one hint of emotion. "It's been a good life", he said and talked of his close and valued friendship with the late Lord Rank. The two had talked of the future of Sir John, who had given a promise, just before Lord Rank died, that he "wouldn't give up the chairmanship until the traditions and management succession of the company had been secured".

He gave no inkling of what his non-executive presidency or other business interests might involve—the restoration of Westminster Abbey where he is senior trustee takes much of his time—but he made it clear that Mr Smith would have satisfied all Lord Rank's requirements.

Ray Maughan

Grindlays recovery to £30m profit

By Adrienne Gleeson
Banking Correspondent

Last year's results from Grindlays were expected to show a big recovery, but the figures announced yesterday surprised even the optimists.

Thanks to a £30m turnaround by its principal subsidiary, Grindlays Bank, the parent company, Grindlays Holdings, has produced 1976 pre-tax profits of £30.13m against a 1975 loss of £8.1m.

And the directors, who made a token interim payment after passing the group's dividend for three half-years running, have stepped up the final to bring the gross dividend for the year to 3.85p a share.

The news sent the shares, which have more than doubled within the past six months, another 10p higher to 74p.

Although the problems with property loans which have beset Grindlays' merchant banking subsidiary, Brandts, are not yet entirely out of the way—there are still substantial amounts of lent to which Grindlays Bank is not receiving any interest—the elimination of last year's £18m provisions against such loans has been principally responsible for the swing at Grindlays Bank from losses (before tax but after provisions) of £7.64m in 1975 to profits of £30.45m in 1976.

EEC move to toughen steel measures

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 15

Tough new measures designed to restore the EEC's steel industry to health are under preparation by the European Commission and are expected to appear on the agenda of the summit meeting of the Nine in Rome on March 25 and 26.

Proposals, including the introduction of minimum prices and import licensing, are to be submitted to the commission for approval tomorrow by Viscount Egon de Kerpel, the commissioner responsible for the steel industry.

A draft of the new measures will then be forwarded on Thursday to the consultative committee of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in Luxembourg, which brings together commission officials, steel manufacturers and trade union representatives.

The new proposals are intended to reinforce the commission's existing anti-crisis measures based mainly on voluntary pledges by steel companies, or groups of companies, to limit their sales on the EEC market to specified levels. (There is no limit on production or stockpiling.)

These existing measures, which were introduced on January 1 and recently extended until the end of June, have had little discernible impact so far on the depressed

steel market, even though 90 per cent of producers are said to be abiding by them.

In an attempt to arrest the deterioration in steel prices since last autumn, the commission now envisages the introduction of an obligatory minimum price for reinforcing bars on the basis of Article 61 of the ECSC Treaty, and the voluntary observance of minimum prices for other steel products.

Some 60 per cent of production of reinforcing bars is accounted for by independent Italian manufacturers who have been among the minority refusing to comply with the existing anti-crisis guidelines.

This explains the tougher nature of the measures proposed for this sector.

In addition, the commission intends to propose a system of obligatory import licences. Although these would be issued automatically on submission of statistical data regarding price and volume, Brussels apparently hopes that surveillance of the kind would discourage importers.

In the past, steel manufacturers have always refused to accept minimum prices without an accompanying ban on imports. Such controls would fit badly, however, with the EEC's generally anti-protective posture in international trade negotiations.

Trust Houses Forte Limited

Results:	1975/76	1974/75	% Increase
Trading Receipts	451.7	369.8	22%
Trading Profit	40.5	30.2	34%
Profit before Taxation	23.7	13.3	78%
Profit after Tax and minority interest	10.6	5.9	80%
Earnings per share	11.75p	6.84p	72%

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

... the Company continues to show improved results and the future looks promising ...

... Profit before taxation of £23.7 million is 78% higher ...

... we have acquired 35 hotels from J. Lyons & Co. Ltd. ... The Company is strengthening its position in the United States still further by the acquisition of the Knott Hotels Corporation ... During the year our stockholding in Travelodge International Inc. was increased to 95% ...

... the industry provides jobs for 1,300,000 people in this country and is the fourth largest employer of labour ...

... current trading has got off to a good start ...

Extract from the Annual Report for the period ended 31st October, 1976. Copies of the Report can be obtained from The Secretary, Trust Houses Forte Limited, 1 Jernyn Street, London SW1Y 4UH.

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How the markets moved

Rises

Anglo-Indonesian	7 1/2 to 57p
Far Eastern L.	8p to 20 1/2p
Grindlays	10p to 74p
Heath C. E.	8p to 57 1/2p
Hill C. Bristol	15p to 118p
Imp Cont Gas	14p to 38 1/2p
Judge Int	12p to 23p

Falls

Amal Metal	5p to 23 1/2p
Clayton Dewar	4 1/2p to 85p
Deamid	9p to 38p
Finlay J.	5p to 21 1/2p
Johnson Grp	5 1/2p to 45 1/2p
Jocai	5p to 19 1/2p
Lake & Elliot	5p to 45p

Equities had a busy session. Gold rose \$1.75 to close at \$146.625. SDR-E was 1.15640 on Tuesday, while SDR-E was 0.67250. Commodities: Russia's index was at 1738.5 (previous 1730.8). Reports, pages 22 and 24

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The Times index: 174.20 -0.22
The FT index: 427.9 -0.9

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	Buyers	Sellers
Australia \$	1.62	1.57
Austria Sch	30.50	28.50
Belgium Fr	65.50	62.50
Canada \$	1.65	1.60
Denmark Kr	10.42	10.02
Flundmark Mk	6.75	6.50
France Fr	8.80	8.48
Germany Dm	4.28	4.06
Greece Dr	65.00	62.00
Hongkong \$	7.25	7.00
Italy L.	155.00	150.00
Japan Yn	505.00	480.00
Netherlands Gld	4.45	4.23
Norway Kr	9.35	8.97
Portugal Esc	66.50	64.50
S Africa Rd	1.97	1.84
Spain Pes	122.00	113.50
Sweden Kr	7.55	7.30
Switzerland Fr	4.56	4.34
US \$	1.76	1.71
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.75	32.50

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Rescue proposals for footwear manufacturers being speeded up

By Derek Harris

With foreign imports accelerating, the final drafting is being pushed through of a rescue scheme for British footwear manufacturers. This follows an agreement in principle over the package by the industry's tripartite steering group.

Among 30 recommendations expected to go shortly to Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, are 10 which, if fully implemented, could provide around £10m in aid.

But even as the report, which has been two years in preparation, reaches Mr Varley's desk, the threat from foreign imports grows stronger.

The problem is a move in the United States to protect its domestic footwear makers from a 48 per cent penetration by overseas manufacturers. President Carter has barely three weeks to decide what to do about footwear import curbs

recommended by the United States International Trade Commission.

The British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation estimate that if the American curbs are imposed about 125 million pairs will be excluded from that market. That leaves Europe, including Britain, as the prime substitute selling area.

Foreign imports, some severely undercutting British products at the wholesale price level, have already carved out a much larger slice of the British market—some 42 per cent at the end of last year, a 20 per cent increase over the previous year.

Imports in January showed a rise to 14.2 million pairs worth £21.7m, the equivalent of an 18 per cent rise over the previous year and a 43 per cent increase in value.

At least 6 per cent of the industry's workforce is now on

short time and trade union returns indicate that about 4,000 jobs were lost last year.

It looks likely that the manufacturers' federation, backed by trade unionists, will press for urgent government action, probably the setting up of quotas for all foreign imports except those from EEC and, perhaps, EFTA countries.

The steering group, which includes representatives of the industry, its unions and Whitehall departments, is expected in its final report to stress the imports problem as well as discussing the domestic industry's shortcomings.

Schemes for improving export marketing are discussed, together with an increase in the industry's design capability. Recommendations for aid to be spread over a number of years, are expected to include some injection of funds under Section 8 of the Industry Act,

Wholesalers urge end to profits curb

By Our Commercial Editor

A strong plea for the removal of gross profit margin controls on distributors and wholesalers when new controls on prices are introduced in August was made yesterday to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection by the Federation of Wholesale and Industrial Distributors.

The federation, which represents all non-food wholesalers, urged that only net profit margins be kept for distributors. Lord Harnmar-Nicholls, federation president, pointed out that with gross profit margins tied to historic figures established in 1973 the subsequent rises in wholesalers' costs were now having their effect and wholesalers were not generating enough profit to replace stock.

In its commentary on the Government's consultative document on price restraint the



Lord Harnmar-Nicholls, president of the federation representing all non-food distributors.

federation maintains that a three-month price freeze during an investigation by the Price Commission is "far too long and in itself an arbitrary penalty".

An appeal procedure should be built into the new code, the federation suggests. It also urges that wholesalers should be made exempt from the new code when more than 75 per cent of their business is in exports.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The cost of providing services for overseas visitors to Britain

From Mr Nicholas Baker

Sir, The chairman of the Tourism Development Committee of the British Hotels Restaurants and Caterers Association (Mr W. Adkins) suggests (March 3) that this country "is second to none in its reputation of hospitality and the way it receives its guests". Both to me and to many visitors whom I have encountered this seems an over optimistic view of standards in our hotels and restaurants.

I am however more concerned with the statements in Mr Adkins' letter that tourism is "a growth industry almost unique in Britain at the moment and which is likely to contribute an ever increasing major addition to our balance of payments" and that an ever growing tourist industry is desirable.

Surely it is time for the net cost of providing tourist services here to be adequately calculated instead of being dealt with in generalities of the kind contained in Mr Adkins' letter.

May I suggest that the following questions be carefully examined before any further growth in tourism in this country is encouraged:

1. How much foreign labour is imported into this country in order to service hotels and restaurants which are the base for a tourist industry, after taking account of remission of earnings abroad and social security and welfare costs borne by the community?

2. What is the likely impact upon our inner urban areas of increased tourist traffic and any increase in the number of hotels and hotel rooms?

3. Consequently upon any expansion of tourism in our inner cities what would be the environmental effects of any further movement of residents out from the centre of inner urban areas into the rest of the country?

4. What are the differences in costs to the community of different types of tourism, in particular cheap package tours, out from the centre of inner urban areas into the rest of the country at the top end of the market at the other?

5. How can the pressures of noise, traffic, crowding, invasion of privacy and use of public transport which accompany mass tourism be reduced to make life more tolerable for residents in both inner urban areas and in tourist areas outside conurbations?

I do not believe we can take for granted any more the bland assumptions by leaders of the tourist industry that tourism is an unmixed blessing which will bring nothing but benefit to our economy. The time has come for a good hard look at tourism in this country and a full cost benefit analysis.

Perhaps the British Tourist Authority would make a start by answering the questions I have posed.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BAKER,
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate,
North Dorset Conservative Association,
Dale House,
Blandford Forum,
Dorset.
March 11.

BSC in scrap buying policy talks

By Our Industrial Correspondent

High-level talks on the future of its controversial scrap-purchasing policy are to take place at the end of this month between the British Steel Corporation and the British Scrap Federation.

Sir Charles Villiers, the corporation's chairman, has invited Mr Roy Boost, executive vice-president of the BSF, for preliminary discussions. This meeting is expected to be followed by another session which will be attended by leaders of the scrap industry.

The scrap industry has been pressing for changes in the corporation's scrap purchasing policy for nearly three years and the pressure for change has been building up.

The BSF's policy has split the federation's membership and the two-tier buying policy under which suppliers of scrap are categorized as direct and indirect suppliers of scrap to corporation plants has led to a great deal of disquiet.

According to scrap industry sources, the BSF will press the corporation to amend its policy to enable those companies which are able to supply 500 tons of scrap a week to BSC plants to join the list of direct suppliers.

This, it is understood, would increase the number of direct suppliers from below 20 companies to about 70. The direct suppliers receive a premium payment over their indirect supplier counterparts.

The federation is also understood to be pressing for regular meetings between the corporation and the direct and indirect suppliers.

Private steelmakers intent on iron ore plant

By Peter Hill

A firm decision by British private sector steelmakers to go ahead with the construction of a £50m iron ore direct reduction plant on the north-east coast is expected to be announced by the end of this week.

The project has been discussed for about three years and will represent the first move by the steelmakers into the direct reduction process.

The project will attract EEC and British government financial assistance, and it is understood that the plant will be located at Jarrow.

Principal participants in the consortium—North Sea Iron—

are the Canadian-owned Sheerness Steel—the United Kingdom's first mini-mill steelmaker. Consolidated Cold Fields and its subsidiary, Tennant Trading.

Other partners are understood to include private sector steelmaker, Patent Shaft, Tube Investments on behalf of its 50 per cent owned private sector company, Revue d'Out; Norway's Elkem Spigerverket, which owns the recently established United Kingdom mini-mill; Manchester Steel and Det Dansk Staalvalseværk of Denmark.

Fiat of Italy has also apparently joined the venture and there is speculation that the German Thyssen group may also take an equity stake.

Direct reduction of iron ore

enables it to be reduced into pelletized or briquetted form, which can then be used as an alternative raw material to scrap in electric-arc steel-making.

Last November it was expected that Sheerness, Consolidated, and Tennant would take up to between 45-50 per cent of the equity with the balance shared between the other participants, although the final equity shares are expected to be completed tomorrow.

The consortium is expected to choose the Purofer direct reduction process developed by Thyssen which has already built a plant using this process in Brazil.

Output, which could reach an annual capacity of up to 800,000 tonnes will be shared

among the participants, with Consolidated and Tennant marketing world-wide the surplus tonnage.

Tennant is one of the United Kingdom's leading suppliers of ferro alloys to steelmakers and it is expected that it will negotiate fixed tonnage long-term supply contracts to customers both in the United Kingdom and in Europe who are outside the consortium.

It is widely expected that the new plant will be shipped to the United Kingdom from South America and South Africa and will involve construction of new unloading facilities.

The plant is likely to employ between 500-600 workers when it is in operation and the likely start-up date is during 1979.

First fall for 15 years in world shipbuilding output

By Peter Hill

Output of ships from the world's shipyards at 33.9 million tons, fell for the first time in 15 years last year, down 280,321 tons on the previous year.

Japanese shipbuilders had the largest reduction in output—down by more than 1.1m tons on the previous year—but the Japanese yards are still pursuing aggressive marketing policies to keep their yards occupied. Figures issued by the Japan Ship Exporters' Association yesterday showed that yards obtained 40 contracts from foreign owners last month totalling nearly 432,000 tons deadweight compared with 20 export contracts in January.

The February intake of work

by Japanese yards was boosted by an order for nine ships totalling 150,000 tons from Poland.

Last month, at a meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's shipbuilding committee, Japan agreed to introduce measures to curb its sales of ships in Europe. The Japanese Government has introduced a 5 per cent rise in the price of export ship contracts (although they will still remain considerably below comparative European prices).

Meanwhile, figures published by Lloyd's Register of Shipping confirm the downward trend in output. Nevertheless, last year's output was the second highest recorded.

Terms of peace pact agreed at Linwood

At the end of six hours of talks the 10-day unofficial strike of 450 men in the transport workers' union at the Linwood plant of Chrysler (Scotland) was resolved yesterday after half the labour force of 6,000 had been laid off.

Mr John Carty, the convenor of shop stewards at the plant, said that the decision had still to be accepted by a meeting of the workforce but he believed this was a formality.

He said that the document produced by the company outlining procedure for industrial disputes, which the union had refused to sign until now and had been the cause of talks breaking down, had now been signed by six senior shop stewards of the transport union.

Peter Wymark writes from Geneva. Mr Don Lander, Chrysler vice-president for Europe, said here yesterday that the British subsidiary should meet its objective of breaking even this year

Leyland—a test-bed for Bullock?

From Colonel J. M. Hopkinson

Sir, May I suggest a simple solution to the Bullock controversy, coupled with a possible chance to save British Leyland? The plan is to make Leyland a test-bed for Bullock. I suggest a three to five year trial, the choice to rest with the TUC. Meanwhile the Bullock Report should "lie on the table".

For the trial to be of any value, there should be no feather-bedding. Government or NEB subsidies should be limited to those already promised. No loans or guarantees for loans should be made by the Government or any public bodies. The company should borrow, when necessary, from the market or its bankers. If equity capital is raised, half should first be offered to the public, not underwritten by the Government or public bodies. The other half should be put up by the NEB *pari passu* with the amount subscribed by the public. In this way, the issue would be judged by the usual criteria of performance, profits and prospects.

The trial could start almost

immediately. As the control (95 per cent) lies with the NEB, no Act of Parliament would be necessary. If the trial is a failure, we shall at least know that Bullock is either unwanted by the workers, or unworkable. If, however, this unique opportunity is seized by the Leyland workforce, determined with enthusiasm to make it a great success, not only will British Leyland be saved, but it would prove that Bullock can work.

In many ways, Leyland would be the ideal subject for the trial, but some special latitude would have to be given to the new board to sort out the tangle the company has got into regarding differentials and also the difference between plants. I suggest that the new board should be permitted to correct these within the total limits of Phase 3 of the Pay Code, for example, the board might decide that any increase should go wholly to groups of workers whom it deems to have been unfairly treated in recent years.

One free tip to the new board—their first call for the proposed new Mini, the Leyland Bullock? It should have a ready sale to

trade unionists, here and abroad. Yours faithfully,
J. M. HOPKINSON,
Chairman,
Automatic Business Machines Limited,
11 Wyfold Road,
London, SW6.

From J. V. Burgess
Sir, Two days ago I received a letter from a friend working overseas, who will be retiring shortly and coming to live in this country, asking me to place an order for him for a Mini Clubman Estate car.

This morning there arrived the following telexed message: "In view Leyland chaos if not committed on Mini Clubman Estate please chase to Ford Escort 1300 Estate."

British Leyland workers may be interested to learn that I have done as requested. Equally they may ponder the fact that this is unlikely to be an isolated case.

J. V. BURGESS,
Garden Cottage,
Holmby Hill Road,
Holmby St Mary,
Dorking,
Surrey, RH5 6NR.

Company liability and subsidiaries

From Mr B. A. Baldry

Sir, The principle of limited liability continues to serve the generally useful purpose of encouraging individuals to put their money to work without risking their all. This usefulness is questionable in the case of the proprietor/manager and the concept is grossly abused when a company can avoid its liabilities by the simple precaution of incurring them through a subsidiary.

Since it is probably too much to hope that MPs will spend quietly at home with their wives the time during which they will not now be debating devolution, perhaps they would care to devote five minutes or more—to the enactment of a Companies (Implied Guarantees) Bill which would automatically impute a guarantee by any company of all the liabilities of any subsidiary which it controlled with an

interest of, say 75 per cent or more.

There are no doubt more colourful contenders for a space in the vacuum but there can be none more sensible.

B. A. BALDRY,
Tenth Floor,
St Nicholas House,
St Nicholas Road,
Sutton,
Surrey, SM1 1EN.
March 7.

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EMPLOYERS

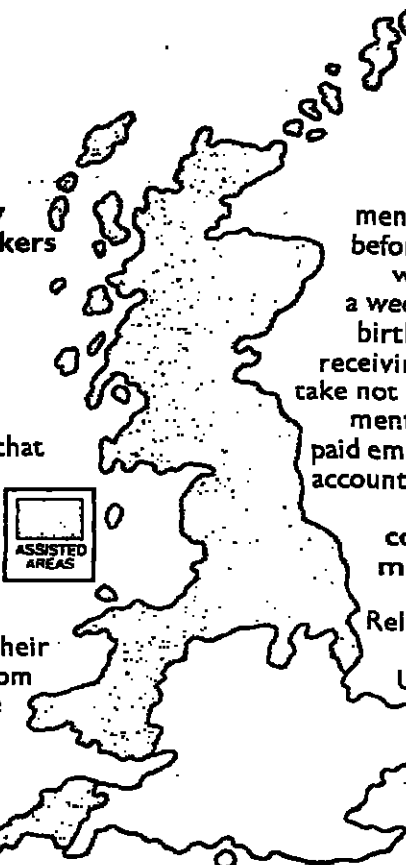
You should know about the Job Release Scheme for Assisted Areas.

The scheme is a temporary measure and is confined to workers in the Assisted Areas of Great Britain. You will find details of the Assisted Areas on the map and in the leaflet referred to below. Separate arrangements apply in Northern Ireland.

If any of your workers decide that the scheme will benefit them and apply for Job Release, they must have your agreement before they can give up their jobs. Taking part in the scheme is entirely voluntary in both cases.

On your part, if you agree to their leaving, you must recruit people from the unemployed register to replace them—though not necessarily for the same jobs.

The Job Release Scheme offers



men aged 64 and women aged 59 on or before 30 June the opportunity to stop work up to a year early and get £23 a week tax-free until their 65th or 60th birthdays respectively. While they are receiving this allowance they must undertake not to claim any benefit for unemployment or incapacity, or to engage in any paid employment or business on their own account where earnings exceed £4 a week.

If your employees wish to be considered for Job Release, they must apply by 30 June.

Leaflets with full details of the Job Release Scheme are available from any Employment Office, Jobcentre or Unemployment Benefit Office. Just ask for copies of 'Job Release Scheme: Employed People'. Or ring 01-214 6403 or 01-214 6497 for information.

JOB RELEASE SCHEME
Issued by the Department of Employment DE

مكتبة النجف

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Grindlays on the rebound

Grindlays is being remarkably about the ways and whereof of its £38m pre-tax profits around, but certain elements it emerge quite clearly. First, a group has started to run on the tax losses an estimate of £140m built up in the United Kingdom over the two preceding years; and the indication that the United Kingdom taxation are profitable for all at the group is still taking things into profit on some of a property loans incurred by Grindlays—down to £70m at the 75 balance sheet date, and £43m improving.

Secondly, if the United Kingdom side is coming good the overseas side must be good ready; the group admits to a 1 per cent improvement pre-tax, and a tax charge of £14.5m, the bank's profits well over £10m above the line. And third, a 15.4 per cent dividend provides any purchasers at last year's 74p with a mere 5.2 per cent in dividend yield, the fact as Grindlays is paying so much its first year of recovery implies better things once the ground is consolidated.

The question for shareholders now, though, is whether the group will be going in for an exercise in strengthening its balance sheet in the immediate future. True, retention of £13m in the bank represents "an important increase in capital resources"—though there had been compensation for the depletion of the two preceding years in the cash and loan stock rejection arranged by Grindlays and the bank's big minority older, Citibank, 18 months ago.

But Grindlays, like every British bank, and to a greater extent than most because of its heavy involvement in overseas banking, has been suffering from the effects of sterling devaluation on its deposits and the consequent erosion of the value of capital to debt. And neither the presence of two powerful shareholders nor the newly impressive profits performance remove the old arguments in favour of a rights issue.

Final: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £114m
Sales £36.5m (£29.5m)
Net profits £2.96m (£2.25m)
Earnings per share 9.61p (9.43p)
Dividend gross 5.913p (5.375p)

Trust Houses Forte

A transformed balance sheet

Events have partly overtaken Trust Houses Forte's latest balance sheet with the purchase of the Lyons hotel interests, sale of the Perry sweet business and disposal of the Thomas Cook stake since the October, 1976, balance sheet date.

Even when these are taken into account, there is no disputing the growing strength of what used to be thought a dicey balance sheet.

Indeed, the latest events are more likely than not to reinforce the view that the balance sheet is unlikely to be the constraint on the share price it has been in the past. For a start the Lyons deal is being funded on very advantageous terms, while the inclusion of the hotels for a ten month period in the current year's profits means at least £2m addition to profits.

Even though intra-group debt applicable to Terry's will rub some of the shine from the Colgate Palmolive deal, the £173m it will get from its sale will comfortably cover the down-payment on the Lyons hotels.

Meanwhile, the latest balance sheet shows an impressive build-up in THF's net liquid resources with the rights issue helping to push up cash and short-term deposits from £9.7m to £28.6m while bank overdrafts have fallen from £14.5m to only £2.3m and could be further booked if rumours about an imminent sale of Lillywhites prove correct.

Gearing has not improved appreciably with overall loans pushed up some £37m to £208m as a result of sterling but at least the overseas content of the assets is much more than matched by assets of £148m and shareholders' funds are almost two-fifths higher at £125.7m thanks to the rights proceeds and a £20m revaluation in the Travelodge interests in the United States.

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Low retentions, meanwhile, are hardly a problem for a group that is heading for £33m profit ex-Lyons this year. But the question overhanging the shares after the way they have outperformed the market since last year is how much further to go, especially as there will be cum-dividend buyers until early May which may still induce Allied Breweries to part with its one-fifth stake.

Accounts: 1975-76 1974-75
Capitalization £153.6m
Net assets £125.7m (£90.8m)
Borrowings £183.4 (£175.2m)
Pre-tax profit £22.7m (£13.5m)
Earnings per share 11.75p (6.84p)

Brooke Bond Liebigh

Tea price conundrum

The good news from Brooke Bond Liebigh is that more than half the £6.8m increase in the half-year profits of £16.7m before asset sales came from other sources than the soaring price of tea, which, according to one estimate could reach 30p a quarter by the end of the year.

Tea prices at auction rose 54 per cent in the six months but while the overseas plantation companies benefited, the United Kingdom tea companies did not. Difficulties in raising retail prices at a time of soaring tea values were created both by the market place—although there was no drop in consumption—and Price Commission rules.

The rise in profits was split almost equally between the United Kingdom and overseas, and in the United Kingdom it came from a more buoyant market in the Oxo, Bourns and wholemeal tea business (where there was a firm turn-around from losses) and at Baxter's, the recently-acquired meat retailer, which bucked the trend in its sector.

Estimates for the year start at £38m and the only worry for the shares at 55p is where the prospective yield of 7.1 per cent is that even the British might get fed up with the price of a cuppa.

Interim: 1976-77 (1975-76)
Capitalization £114m
Sales £334.9m (£257.7m)
Pre-tax profits £16.8m (£10.2m)
Dividend gross 1.16p (1.06p)

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Estimates for the year start at £38m and the only worry for the shares at 55p is where the prospective yield of 7.1 per cent is that even the British might get fed up with the price of a cuppa.

Interim: 1976-77 (1975-76)
Capitalization £114m
Sales £334.9m (£257.7m)
Pre-tax profits £16.8m (£10.2m)
Dividend gross 1.16p (1.06p)

The good news from Brooke Bond Liebigh is that more than half the £6.8m increase in the half-year profits of £16.7m before asset sales came from other sources than the soaring price of tea, which, according to one estimate could reach 30p a quarter by the end of the year.

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Leyland: the Ryder plan in ruins?

"I think there could easily arise a situation where neither I nor my board would recommend that the Government should pour money into Leyland. I do not think that is too difficult, too unlikely or too remote a possibility."

That was the view expressed nearly a year ago by Sir Richard Dobson, the former tobacco industry chief coaxed by the Government into the Leyland boardroom to succeed the late Sir Ronald Edwards as part-time chairman. Those words are no longer speculation but cruel reality. For just two weeks ago the Leyland directors went to their parent National Enterprise Board to say that because the cars division is not generating enough cash they cannot recommend the injection of further public funds into this side of their business.

Apart from the toolroom strike, Leyland has been in trouble for some months, with inventories and capital schemes ravaged by inflation and sales targets missed through labour disputes and poor productivity. Not one director can place his hand on his heart and declare that there is any chance of the £1,500m of trading profits required between 1977 and 1983 under the Ryder reorganization plan.

In the summer of 1975 the Department of Industry bought some 78 per cent of the old BLM's equity for £46.48m and in October 1975, subscribed a further £200m of taxpayers' monies for new shares in a reconstituted company, British Leyland. This gave the Government 95 per cent of the shares in the new concern, which had £47,500,000 in cash and assets.

Almost half the £200m was promptly used to pay off some exceptional loans that had kept the motor giant afloat during 1975. These were over and above normal overdraft facilities backed by state guarantees. The result was that Leyland was left with £100m for the grand designs for the company's future drawn up by the Government-appointed Ryder committee of inquiry.

In January, 1976, the Government reaffirmed that Ryder's proposals remained the basis for future reorganization and a month later transferred its shareholding for a valuation of £246.9m to the new state holding company, the NEB, whose chairman was none other than Lord Ryder.

One of Mr Park's first acts was to go to the clearing banks to renegotiate the overdraft facilities, and there was also a big rise in cover from the Exports Credit Guarantee Department. So Leyland went into last year with £100m, some extra short-term borrowing and the prospect of drawing investment capital from either the NEB or the department, or both.

Within a few months, the board, now headed by Sir Richard, former chairman of what is now BAT Industries, had prepared a corporate plan and told the NEB of its immediate financing needs. Indices of productivity and industrial disputes had been improving.

The corporate plan covered the period 1975 to 1983. It had not been published, but it apparently indicated that the profits to be generated would cover only increased working capital requirements. There would be a negative cash flow for some years, and even capital expenditure might be initially slower than forecast when Ryder projections first became the basis of Leyland's reconstruction.

Lord Ryder told the Government that the group's new corporate plan was a sound framework and urged the provision of £100m of public funds for refurbishing factories and starting new model development programmes. That was in June last year. Lord Ryder, prisoner of his own arithmetic and statements, could hardly back down.

His team, put together when he was Cabinet industrial adviser, estimated that £1,400m would be needed by Leyland from outside sources by 1980.

British Leyland's share of the domestic market fell in 1976 to 27.4 per cent from 30.9 per cent in 1975, and had slumped to 26.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year. This compares with the Ryder report's objective of securing 33 per cent of the market.

The company's car output rose by 14 per cent last year compared with 1975, helped by the impact of sterling depreciation on export demand. But it was still 200,000 units short of targets. Disputes at Rubery Owen and the toolroom strike have caused a slump in output over the past four months, with production of 11 out of 18 models at a standstill.

81, of which £900m had to be raised by September, 1976. It was on these figures that the £200m equity investment had been made by the Government, with up to £500m in long-term loans being supplied in stages between 1976 and 1978.

The balance of £200m had to come from Leyland's existing overdraft arrangements and it was proposed that the Government should look after most of the remaining finance after 1978.

Industry strikes (including toolroom troubles) and a poor market share performance, the NEB advised the Government that £100m of loan capital should be supplied. Accordingly, Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, obtained parliamentary approval for a £30m facility under Section 8 of the Industry Act.

Maurice Corina

This has left the NEB with the responsibility for £70m, drawing this on its own account from the National Loans Fund, but less any sums that Leyland might raise itself from non-public sources.

Drinking of this money have only just begun. As far as can be established, the Government is still holding on to its £30m, but the NEB has just paid over £25m from its own funds and is now agonizing over the other £5m.

That, if paid, still leaves Leyland with the need to find £20m at a time when it is now losing £10m to £15m a week, when bankers are getting restive and the "big spend" implicit in the 1977 business plan simply cannot be justified.

It is true, of course, that Leyland is about to report a profit of £75m on its operations in the 15 months ended December 31, 1976. But most of this came from non-car activities and exchange rate gains.

The board of Leyland has been driven by the financial crisis besetting Leyland Cars to the point where the cash flow and productive performance cannot sustain the ambitious cars plan, for which funds have to be found by this year.

Leyland has been due to revise its corporate plan and roll it forward this summer. The present crisis, however, arises because it is necessary to provide some of the new funds, scheduled in the 1977 business plan, before the summer decision on the very large commitments envisaged in the original Ryder strategy.

The funds cannot be held up without jeopardizing the whole capital expenditure programme. It has to be understood that the NEB is required by the Government to be concerned not solely with expenditure in any one year but with the total large-scale expenditure in each part of the reorganization programme.

Besides this duty, the NEB is also required to be satisfied in screening capital projects ahead of the major review due this summer that necessary improvements in productivity have been discussed and accepted by the workforce.

The Leyland board therefore faces a very difficult task, fighting for short-term survival.

Tough Texan heading for the trade talks

"I wouldn't recognize a single European finance minister if I passed him on the street today. ... By the end of this year I will know each one of them well. ... I will travel long and I will travel hard and go wherever there is a problem."

These are the words of Mr Robert Strauss, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, whose appointment to the Cabinet post of United States Special Trade Representative was announced last week.

Mr Strauss will have overall charge in this of American trade negotiations with the EEC, the developing countries and with the Communist block. Recently he gave *The Times* his first interview since the news of his forthcoming appointment was leaked in Washington.

A colourful and powerful Texas Democrat, he is disarmingly candid and says bluntly that his cantour may at first be one of his biggest problems in negotiating with Europeans. He stresses that he always says exactly what he means.

"I will

NANCIAL NEWS

Non-legal & Gen
ension
inds pass
500m mark

John Brennan
Legal & General Assurance's pension fund management, the largest of the exempt in this country, has now reached the £500m mark. Funds management are now in.

The past year the pension fund group increased the number of its clients from 219 to a move towards managed funds which Mr Keith Hall, L & G pension manager's manager, explains in terms of the availability to these pension funds through such a diverse range. It includes an ordinary, a fixed interest, a property and a mixed property, equity and gilt fund.

arguing the case for private investment, public authorities and investment funds Mr Hall says: "The market system, its imperfections, of course, are no evidence however a bureaucrats, however contentious, make fewer mistakes in private enterprise."

L & G's pension fund management concentrated on property and mixed fund investments last year. On the property side £60m of new investments made at equivalent yields around 10 per cent produced 12 per cent aggregate capital growth in the year against a 2 per cent capital profit on the £169m fund.

G plans to increase its property portfolio this year and is willing to consider short-term reversionary and industrial properties on this side of the shopping list.

The property fund managed 10.3 per cent appreciation on a year, 41.6 per cent up on a five-year period since the fund started.

The mixed fund, 33 per cent invested in short to long Government securities, showed a positive performance in the year at 1.4 per cent, an out-standingly improved by the recent recovery in the FT index and now showing a 15.3 per cent rise in the year against 16.1 per cent improvement in the FT All-Share Index.

On a five-year view the mixed fund has managed a 30.9 per cent appreciation to February, 1977, against a 20.4 per cent rise in the FT All-Share Index, 45.2 per cent increase in the property fund and only a 16.5 per cent rise in the ordinary share fund.

Argyle's oil fuels Kleinwort

A worthwhile contribution from its 23 per cent stake in the Argyle Field helped boost the contribution of merchant bank Kleinwort, Benson, to the 1976 results of Kleinwort, Benson, Lonsdale.

After tax and the normal transfer to inner reserves, profits of the merchant banking subsidiary rose from £3.79m to £4.38m. So it was largely responsible for the increase in the parent company's after tax profits from £5.92m to £6.54m.

Other group companies chipped in £1.43m against £1.39m, and associated companies, their numbers diminished by the group's sale of its stake in Bank of America International last May, contributed a slightly higher £740,000.

Last year's contribution from the Argyle Field was Kleinwort, Benson's first worthwhile return on its North Sea investment, and the profit contribution in the current year should be at least as high—assuming good weather.

After a very good year in 1976 the contribution from the bank's bullion dealing subsidiary Sharps, Pixley, was a bit lower.

The group has increased its final dividend from 3.32p to 3.34p a share gross, making 5.67p a share against 5.32p.

Mr P. C. Boon, chairman of Hoover.

sold some £4.6m of its 56.6m of gilt-edged at a loss of £979,000, so that its pre-tax profits were up from only £1.49m to £1.52m. Thanks to a £310,000 claw-back of tax over-provided for in previous years, however, net income was up from £744,000 to £1.1m.

A note to the accounts reveals that WAB could face a tax liability of £1.7m (of which £940,000 has arisen in the past year) if the inland Revenue wins its case to tax notional profits on a £20m subordinated debt issue. Like several other banks, WAB is disputing the Revenue's contention and has made no provisions. WAB intends to repay the loan this year.

Haw Par now without a chairman

Mr Michael Y. O. Fam has ceased to be chairman of Haw Par Brothers International and has resigned from the board. A successor has yet to be appointed.

Mr Fam joined the board and promptly became chairman in October, 1975, at the time of a series of major board changes as the company reacted under the investigation into the former Slater-Walker connections.

A few months earlier Mr James Gammell had resigned as chairman and Mr D. E. Ogilvy Watson, managing director, and Mr Ian Tamblin, deputy managing director, had left the company.

Mr Fam's appointment was made "on the initiative" of the Monetary Authority of Singapore and it was widely assumed at the time that he was essentially a caretaker until the controversy surrounding the company had died down.

WAB in tax dispute

Western American Bank (Europe), the London-based consortium bank, increased its operating profits by 67 per cent to £2.3m last year. But the bank

Black & Edg'ton goes A-Line caravanning

The Black & Edg'ton camping and leisure group is entering new but not unfamiliar territory. It has made an agreed bid for the unquoted A-Line Caravans of Hull, one of the biggest caravan makers in Britain.

Black & Edg'ton will pay £1.3m initially of which £600,000 will be cash and the rest in shares.

A further £650,000 will be paid in shares or cash if A-Line profits reach the expected £725,000 for the year to October 31. Last year profits were a record £425,000. The net assets of A-Line are about £1.1m.

Mr David Wilkinson, chief executive of A-Line will join the Black and Edg'ton board.

The Pentland Investment Trust Limited

A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER 1976

	1976	1975
Gross Revenue	£1,188,292	£1,033,710
Earnings per Ordinary Share	3.46p	2.90p
Dividend per Ordinary Share	3.40p	2.85p
Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share	129p	115p

Extract from Statement by the Chairman

CAPITAL—The Net Asset Value of your Ordinary Shares has risen from 115p to 129p, an increase of 12% as against falls of 4% in the F.T. Actuarial All-Share Index and 8% in the F.T. Industrial Index, and an increase of 27% in the Standard and Poor's 500 Share Index, adjusted for the dollar premium and the rate of exchange.

Your Board's policy of investing a substantial proportion of the Trust's assets overseas has this year, and over a number of years, proved to be of benefit to the shareholders.

OBJECTIVES—We would like to restate your Board's long term policy: this has not changed for many years. It is one of investing in shares which we believe to have good prospects for growth but not to the extent of totally disregarding shareholdings as we believe that the majority of our shareholders expect us to provide them with an increase in income as well as growth of capital values over a period of years.

Added to these long-term objectives must be the short-term aim, to reduce the discount that your shares stand at in the Market, relative to the Net Asset Value. This discount is not materially different from that of most Investment Trust Companies, and it must be in the interests of all shareholders and members of the Association of Investment Trust Companies to reduce the overall discounts. The long term record of your company, both as regards income and Capital, would seem to me to justify a price nearer the Net Asset Value than has been seen in the last year. Investment Trusts that have been seen in the last year, Investment Trusts that provide a portfolio of investments with a wide geographic spread, where management costs are relatively low.

The present problem has not been created by the failure of managements to achieve better than average investment performances. This can be seen in the fact that the Trusts with the best investment record over the last five years stand at no markedly smaller discount than the average Trust. The problem has been one of supply and demand and it is to be hoped that this picture will change. The steady erosion of the percentage of equity investments held by private investors and their replacement by institutions does not of itself invalidate the worth of Investment Trusts, but it has increased the supply of stock without increasing the demand.

Copies of the Accounts are available on request.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 3 Albany Place, Edinburgh 2, on Tuesday, 5th April, 1977 at 10.30 a.m.

EAST OF SCOTLAND INVESTMENT MANAGERS LTD. 3 ALBANY PLACE EDINBURGH EH2 4NQ

Business appointments

New chief for Barclays Insurance Services

Mr Peter Maitland, a director of Barclays Insurance Services and Barclays Insurance Brokers International, has been made managing director of both companies.

Sir Douglas Bruce-Gardner has become a director of the Iron Trades Employers' Insurance Association and Iron Trades Mutual Insurance.

Captain S. R. Arnold has joined the board of Ocean Fleets. Mr R. R. Miles becomes development director of Ocean Liners.

Mr Charles Lovell has been made a part-time member of the South Eastern Electricity Board.

Mr William Bree becomes deputy

Argyle's oil fuels Kleinwort

its stake by a fifth to 42 per cent.

Hoover looks for steady growth

Unemployment and "all the uncertainties" at home, mean that Mr P. C. Boon, chairman of Hoover, does not expect any early upturn.

However, the prospect of tax relief in the Budget, and a sales drive, suggests steady progress over the rest of the year. A further improvement is looked for overseas. All this was enough to harden the shares to 270p.

In 1976 the group's pre-tax profits fell from £20.7m to £17m. The group is preparing to adjust its accounts for inflation on the Current Cost Accounting principles but it does not have detailed figures yet. But the director estimates that adjusting for the cost of sales and depreciation, pre-tax profits went down from £12.5m to £7.2m. Even so, the present dividend would still be well covered.

Yearlings at 104pc

In line with the general decline in interest rates, the rate for this week's local authority loans has come down to 10 1/2 per cent from 11 1/2 per cent. Major borrowers (again at par) are Stoke-on-Trent (£1.5m) and Merseyside Passenger Transport (Mersey) (£1.5m). The County Council—all for £1m.

Trade Indemnity in 20 pc fall to £1m

In 1976, the premiums written by Trade Indemnity rose from £12.3m to £14.7m, but net income fell 20 per cent to £1.05m. After adding £115,000 of tax relief on the cost of new leasehold premises in 1974, profits were £1.16m against £1.68m. The 1975 figure included £355,000 on the sale of leases.

After bringing forward £398,000 against £310,000, the group which writes credit insurance business both here and overseas saw profits rise from £2.19m to £2.26m.

A final dividend of 7.37p takes the year's total up from 10.5p to 11.5p.

W. & E. Turner peak

Multiple footwear retailer, W. & E. Turner boosted pre-tax profits from £497,000 to a best-ever £652,000 last year. Turnover rose from £7m to £8.23m. Earnings a share jumped from 2.32p to 4.11p and the gross payment duty rises from 2.18p to 2.4p.

Woods'e-Burmah wants more cash

Hard on an inquiry by the Melbourne Stock Exchange asking if it knew any reason for the sharp fall in its shares this month, Woods'e-Burmah Oil says: "Further funds are needed to carry on full participation in exploration and feasibility studies on Australia's North-west Shelf and these will be sought as equity capital."

The company added that no decision on the amount or timing of the issue had yet been taken. Just over a year ago Woods'e made a rights issue of AS21m on a one-for-five basis at 70 cents to finance exploration in the same area.

Burmah Oil, the United Kingdom oil group, faced with financial pressures of its own at the time declined to take up its entitlement. It thereby reduced

Montefibre's loss means more capital reconstruction

From John Earle
Rome, March 15

Montefibre, the fibres subsidiary of the Montedison Chemicals Group, has returned a 99,900m lire (£66m) loss for 1976, and for the second successive year is to undergo a big capital reconstruction.

A shareholders' meeting in Milan on April 30 will be asked to approve a capital write-down from 181,152m lire to 24,154m lire and is subsequent reconstruction to 241,536m lire through a rights offer of nine ordinary and nine preference shares for every two held either ordinary or preference.

In 1975 a loss was reported of 116,804m lire as a result of which the capital was re-

Europe up, U S down at Robeco

Last year Robeco's investment policy was to add interests in strong countries such as the United States and Japan. The percentage invested in North America rose from 35 to almost 29. Japan's share went up from 13 to nearly 14 per cent but Europe fell from over 40 to 32 per cent. The cash position increased from almost 3 to 7 per cent.

This reflected selling in rising markets and forward exchange transactions.

These deals, to the tune of 1,300m fl (about £302m), were concluded to cover the currency risk run with the United States part of the portfolio.

In the period September 1 to January 1 last, Robeco bought 25,000 shares in General Accident, 60,000 shares in National Westminster and 50,000 shares in Royal Insurance. It sold 275,000 shares in Beedham, 100,000 shares in GEC, and 110,000 shares in Glaxo.

Overseas

duced from 120,768m lire to 60,384m lire and then reconstructed to 181,152m lire.

The company says that the 1976 results represent a distinct improvement, as sales of chemical fibres increased by 38.2 per cent and output by 20.5 per cent, with 74 per cent utilization of capacity, while 23,100m lire was allotted to depreciation.

Along with fertilizers, fibres is a major loss-making part of the Montedison Group, which faces an uncertain outlook after the recent resignations of Signor Giorgio Corbi as joint managing director in charge of finance and Signor Gioacchino Albanese, as special assistant to the chairman.

One-for-ten scrip by Suez Finance

Paris, March 15.—Last year, the net profits of Compagnie Financière de Suez rose from 146.9m francs to 169.5m francs (about £19.8m) and the group now makes a one-for-ten scrip issue. The net profit after capital operations fell to 4.96m francs, from 101.6m francs, and it is all being set aside as a provision against fluctuations in portfolio value. The dividend rises from 24 to 25.5 francs.—Reuter.

Sidd Brands' mop-up of Dutch food firm

Standard Brands, an American food combine, says that it plans to make an offer for the shares of Van Nelle NV of Rotterdam now publicly held. Standard Brands owns about

Montefibre's loss means more capital reconstruction

56 per cent of the shares of Van Nelle NV, a processor of coffee, tobacco, food and confectionery products.

If all the Van Nelle shares, not owned by Standard Brands, are bought the dollar value of the offer would be about \$13m (about £7.6m).

The ordinary shares of De Erven Wed. J. Van Nelle have been restored to trading in Amsterdam after being suspended on Thursday at 250 florins.—AP-Dow Jones and Reuter.

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Sandvik for London?

Sandvik AB, the carbide and special steels group of Sweden, is pondering a foreign quotation of its shares; but no decision is likely until after the annual meeting on May 6. A company spokesman said that if it decided to apply, London would probably be its first choice.

Meanwhile, the board proposes a scrip issue worth a total 98.3m kroner (£13.6m), equal to one new B share with one-in-ten voting power for seven old shares. This would pave the way for an issue of about \$33m worth of foreign loans, to be converted in to B shares.—Reuter.

CENTRAL LINE

Lombard's offer for Central Line Securities, received acceptances for 369,785 ordinary shares (71.4 per cent). Lombard now holds 57.1 per cent. Offer extended to March 22.

FAIRCLOUGH
THE COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Year ended 31st December, 1976

	1976 £'000	1975 £'000
Turnover	163,471	147,672
Profit before taxation	5,954	4,973
Profit after taxation	2,828	2,394

Earnings per Ordinary share (basic)	30.6p	28.4p
Dividend per Ordinary share	9.0p	8.25p

Points from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. G. Davies, C.B.E., D.C.M., J.P.

- ★ Record Group operating profit has been achieved.
- ★ The maximum permitted dividend is proposed.
- ★ Cash resources have remained consistently high throughout the year.
- ★ The Group is considered to be in an efficient state for the present and anticipated trading conditions and has entered 1977 with a good workload at prices to which it can work.
- ★ At an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on 4th May, 1977, resolutions will be proposed to change the name of the Company, to increase the authorised share capital and to authorise a capitalisation issue on a 3 for 1 basis.

Leonard Fairclough Limited,
Sandway House, Northwich, Cheshire

CIVIL ENGINEERING - BUILDING
TUNNELLING - SURFACE MINING
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Essex Water Company

Mr. A. W. White's statement to Stockholders

The Drought

The long dry summer of 1975 to which I referred in my last statement was followed by an abnormally dry winter and in the summer of 1976 we experienced very hot weather with very little rain over a long period which resulted in a drought. The severity of which had not been experienced for centuries. Despite the supply problems which this drought presented, the only restriction on supplies imposed by the Company was a short term ban on the use of hosepipes by non-measured consumers. It was in fact necessary for the Company to impose this ban to comply with the terms of a bulk supply agreement with an adjoining Regional Water Authority. I refer again to this matter towards the end of my statement. As the Company had the foresight to provide adequate water storage and treatment capacity in past years, more stringent measures were not called for. Our consumers too played their part by readily responding to appeals to reduce consumption and the Company wish to express their appreciation of this.

Rainfall statistics suggest that a recurrence of the recent drought is unlikely for many years and it would be extravagant to construct works and storage facilities which would provide for such an extreme climatic contingency. With the experience of 1976, I am satisfied that the Company would be able to meet demands in any future drought period with the minimum of inconvenience to consumers.

Water Rates and Charges

The standard domestic water rate charged throughout 1976 remained at the rate fixed on 1st July, 1975, namely 6.32p in the £ on net annual value, with a differential rate of 25% above standard in the areas formerly supplied by Southend Waterworks Company and the Borough of Maldon.

The standard charge for metered supplies was increased from 51.40p to 57.16p per 1000 gallons as from 1st April, 1976 with differential charges of 25% above standard in the areas formerly supplied by Southend Waterworks Company, the Borough of Maldon and Maldon Rural District Council and 15% above standard in the area formerly supplied by the Borough of Chelmsford.

Having held the domestic rate steady for 21 and the metered rate for 12 months, small increases in both rates appear to be unavoidable from 1st April, 1977 due to continued inflation in costs, especially of fuel and power and of materials and services purchased by the Company. The Company will continue to restrict expenditure wherever possible, always bearing in mind, however, its statutory obligation to provide an adequate supply of wholesome water.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure during the year amounted to £2,241,000 and the net expenditure to 31st December, 1976 now totals £44,725,000. The improvements to the North Essex Works at Layer-de-la-Haye, officially opened on 1st October, 1976 by Col. Sir

John Ruggles-Brise, Lord Lieutenant of Essex, together with the recent Hanningfield extensions, enabled full use to be made of water provided under the Ely Ouse Scheme. Electrification of Layer-de-la-Haye pumping station, a former coal fired station, is nearing completion. Improvements in the distribution system to which I referred last year were duly completed and, as a result, no major difficulties were experienced during the drought.

Changes in Capital

An issue of £4,000,000 of 9% redeemable preference stock, 1982 was made on 23rd November, 1976 at an average price of £94.898 per £100 of stock. From the proceeds of this issue, £3,000,000 of 7% (formerly 10%) preference stock, 1976 was redeemed on 31st December, 1976 and the balance will be used to finance the continuing programme of capital expenditure on improving and extending, as may be necessary, existing works and mains.

Reorganisation of the Water Industry

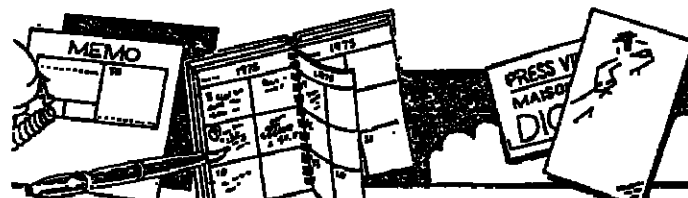
The Government have now published plans for far reaching changes in the structure of the water industry which was reorganised in large measure less than three years ago. Plans include nationalisation of the statutory water companies, although no attempt is made to justify this, other than on general political grounds and with the bald statement that the continued existence of the companies is anomalous. Approximately one quarter of the population of England and Wales is supplied by water companies and during the recent drought it is significant that not one of the companies had to resort to standpipes. Furthermore, no water company imposed any more serious restriction than the banning of hosepipes, whilst others imposed no restrictions whatsoever. Despite inferences to the contrary, the Company and Regional Water Authorities work happily together. During the period of most severe shortage our Company, having imposed a ban on the use of hosepipes referred to earlier, were able to accept a reduction of 2 million gallons a day in raw water supplied under agreement by a Regional Water Authority, so that relief could be given by them to an area of extreme shortage.

The Company will oppose this threat of nationalisation, unsupported as it is by any practical reasoning, in conjunction with other statutory water companies and the Water Companies' Association.

General

I take this opportunity once again to thank my fellow directors for their continuing help and advice throughout the year.

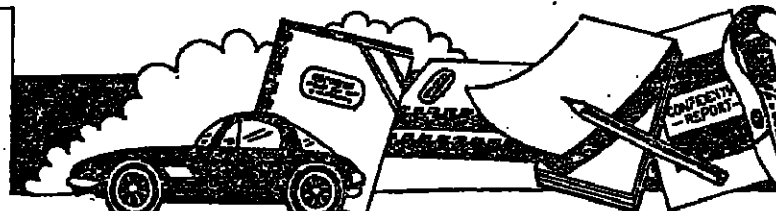
It would, no doubt, be your wish to thank the staff for their loyal, willing and splendid service throughout another testing year. It is interesting to record that of our 1,046 employees, 134 have served the water industry for more than 25 years: a record of which the Company is justly proud.



La creme de la creme Opportunities

—Managerial—Administrative—Secretarial—Personal Assistants—

All recruitment advertisements in this category are open to both male and female applicants



MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE TUPPERWARE COMPANY

requires

First class Confidential Executive Secretary

This is a key position within the Company where there are excellent career prospects and the salary and benefits will reflect the nature of the appointment which becomes available as the present Secretary is leaving after 10 years with the company.

The position demands some travel at home and abroad and the person appointed will be able to work on own initiative and be capable of dealing with people at all levels.

Knowledge of French would be an advantage.

Applications, which will be treated in complete confidence, should be made in writing enclosing a c.v. in full to

I. D. Laurie,
Administration Director,
THE TUPPERWARE COMPANY,
43 Upper Grosvenor Street, W1V 0BE.

Envelopes should be marked "private and confidential"

PA/Secretary

London based, with travel

Salary not limiting for
the right person

Our client, the Head of a long established Saudi Arabian company, and his wife, seek a person to work from the client's London home and to offer business, administrative and social assistance to the family and their guests when in London. Secretarial skill, poise, initiative, flexibility and integrity are imperative. Age - to early 30's. Foreign languages useful.

The sensible basic salary, with travel and entertainment opportunities and allowances coupled to extensive free time, permitting of another job, will hold a unique appeal for the right person. Interviews will be held in our London office.

Reply briefly in your own handwriting, quoting reference JED7019 and including a recent photograph, to ERP International Recruitment Limited, 75-77 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ. Tel: 0244 317886 (ansaphone after 5pm).

Offices in London, Chester, Jeddah, Amsterdam, Brussels, Milan, Paris



BUSINESS ANALYST

c. £5,000 in S.W.1

The kind of career opportunity that will come along all to rarely, especially with prospect of progressing to line management.

You would be a member of a 2-man team working for the Chief Executive (Planning) of a large food group. Tasks include supply of management information, group forecasting, company analysis and validation of planning and assessment of potential acquisition.

To qualify you should have a degree and at least 3 years' experience in business, preferably in a research role, and with a financial bias.

To apply please telephone Mary Overton 01-493 2155 or 01-493 2080, or write to:

Mary Overton
Female
Executives,
29 New Bond
Street, London, W.1.

PROJECT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

SUFFOLK COAST
Fisons Fertiliser Division, based at Frinton, are looking for an assistant to undertake research and development work on potential projects within the division and associated companies, world commodity market, and company acquisitions. The successful candidate will be responsible for abstracting information from the press, libraries, market research and other sources, and for the preparation of reports, both independently and as assistant to the Project Research Assistant. Age 25 and 30, you will have a degree level and have some research experience. French and/or German would be an advantage and you will have typing and shorthand skills. Some knowledge of statistics and qualifications and experience in the use of a computer would be an advantage. Salary is negotiable and a good fringe benefits package is offered. Please send an application (with a recent photograph) to: Fisons Fertiliser Division (EM), Frinton, Suffolk IP11 7LP. Tel: 039 42 444.

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Top secretaries are sought for the Financial Director and Property Executive of the property subsidiary of a large, established group of companies in the West End.

Accurate typing and shorthand essential (no figure work) and the opportunity to use your initiative and experience to return to work after maternity leave. We offer modern, spacious offices near Oxford Circus, 1250 typewriters, 1.5 v.m., and a good negotiable salary. For interview telephone Mrs. People 409 3700.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/P.A.

U.S. bank representative. Office in City. 3 years experience. Good educational background and languages a plus. Short-hand/typing, office administration. Age 22-35. Salary £3,500 negotiable according to age and experience.

PHONE 606 8452

HAMBURG

If you would like to work in Hamburg, as a Secretary or shorthand typist, you could be the person to join a diverse young shipping firm, are looking for a lady to join their office. You would be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, with German shorthand typing. If you are a native speaker of English and have a good knowledge of German, you will be an ideal candidate. Salary is negotiable and a good fringe benefits package is offered. Please send an application (with a recent photograph) to: Fisons Fertiliser Division (EM), Frinton, Suffolk IP11 7LP. Tel: 039 42 444.

FRANCE

Secretary/Translator, good English, good typing, required immediately for a firm in France. Salary equivalent to £2,500 p.a. plus fringe benefits.

Telephone ELIZABETH MATNEY 01-726 2565

TOP SECRETARY/PA

For Managing Director, firm in International Law, W.C. Ability to work under pressure essential. Salary £3,300 p.a. Fulltime and 4 hrs.

Phone: 242 5568

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

Personnel Officer

This appointment has been re-established within the Fund's Headquarters and we are seeking a Personnel Officer aged between 30 and 40 whose main duty will be to handle the recruitment of administrative, secretarial and clerical staff (approx. 120). He or she will form part of a team and will be required to deal with all the necessary supporting paper work. Relevant experience essential and a flair for interviewing is as important as an IPM qualification. Successful candidates should enjoy contact with people and have a real desire to solve staff problems.

For further particulars and an application form, please apply to:

Head of Personnel Administration,
THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND
157 Clapham Road,
London, SW9 0PT.

Tel. No. 01-582 1414, Extension 54

Closing date for application,
31st March, 1977.



Save the Children

EARN OVER £3,000 p.a. (inc. bonus)

If you can sell or be trained to sell, have a capacity for really hard work and are seeking an interesting and challenging career, you could be the person that we are looking for. We are able to offer you 4 weeks 3 days' paid holidays after the first 6 months, and 5 weeks' after a year, a subsidised restaurant and first-class conditions in a new, air-conditioned office building. In addition, we will see that you have intensive training to help you be successful, and the opportunity to earn over £3,000 per annum, including bonus. So, if you are suffering from a lack of challenge and stimulus, apply now for a job in The Times Telephone Sales Department selling the benefits of Classified Advertising in one of the best newspapers in the world, helping private and professional people to get the best results from their advertisements. Consider your job now, then ring Brian Westham for an interview on

01-837 1234 extension 7115

Confidential Secretary to Company Secretary and Legal Adviser

The Company Secretary and Legal Adviser of this large international group, the UK Head Office of which is situated in the West End, seeks a mature and efficient secretary with good secretarial skills. Legal experience preferred but not essential. This is an interesting and varied position which demands a high degree of administrative and technical ability but in return gives a great deal of job satisfaction. Salary, which is negotiable, will be commensurate with responsibilities and in addition there are excellent fringe benefits.

Please apply in the first instance giving details of age, education, experience etc. to:

Mrs P. Kelly,
COLGATE PALMOLIVE LIMITED,
76 Oxford Street,
London W1A 1EN
Tel: 01-580 2030

RECEPTIONIST ST. JAMES'S

First-class receptionist required for group headquarters in historic building in St. James's.

Experience essential and candidate must be used to dealing with top level people. Accurate copy typing required and some flower arranging will be necessary.

It goes without saying that the successful applicant will be well-groomed, have a pleasing personality and a good speaking voice. Preferred age 25-40.

Salary by arrangement. Pension scheme, 20 days annual holiday, subsidised canteen. Apply in writing to Box 0537 J, The Times.

FLYING P.A./SOCIAL SECRETARY

Very senior businessman needs staff of one for his private executive jet. Must be under 30, personable, know their food and wine, be able to mix easily with the very rich, wholly discreet and trustworthy and a person of the world. Able to stay in a 5-star hotel one night, and a sleeping bag the next. Irregular hours, but plenty of leisure and good living. Languages a help, but not essential. Would be based in London or Geneva, flying mainly round Europe and the Middle East. Salary £3,500, probably tax-free, but very generous perks, clothes allowance, etc. will supplement this considerably.

Write saying why you think you're right for this unusual job including a photo and telephone number to Adelaide Hammond, Gordon Procter & Partners, 50 Hans Crescent, London, SW1 0NA (Tel. 01-589 8177), quoting "Mc Alpine Aviation".

Career Care EMPLOYMENT AGENCY



Big enough to reassure . . . friendly enough to care

In nine years our Group (Accountancy Personnel and associated agencies) has placed thousands of professionals. Doing this we've become really good at "job matching" - seeing that you get the most from work. Job satisfaction, career progression, good pay.

Armed with this invaluable skill, Career Care is now fitting individuals in your income bracket into jobs and careers that suit ideally.

Advice and rapid action for everybody - 16 to 60, male or female. Messengers to managers, permanent or temporary.

Career Care is on very good terms with a wide variety of firms - all insisting that we fill their vacancies.

When it's time for a change - and a worthwhile one - talk to Career Care.

There are Career Care offices at:-

214 Piccadilly London W1V 9LD Telephone: 01-437 1002
1 Philip Lane London EC3M 8AQ Telephone: 01-626 9421
100 Fleet Street London EC4Y 1DE Telephone: 01-353 9171
53 Victoria Street London SW1H 0EY Telephone: 01-222 0481
376 Chiswick High Road London W4 5TF Telephone: 01-995 5125
64 George Street Croydon CR0 1PD Telephone: 01-680 0858

The Cream of Secretaries £4,000 p.a.

An International Trading Company based in Knightsbridge is seeking to recruit three Executive Secretaries for Board Directors. These positions are newly created and the right people will have already gained at least five years' experience, working at Director level and dealing with international business.

The offices are decorated to a very high standard, electric typewriters are supplied, and, within the group, there are real chances for self expression. If you are certain you have the qualities required and aged 30+, send curriculum vitae and recent photograph.

The best of the Bunch

We are looking for bright people aged around 25, who have not yet reached the level of Secretary, but who, given the right training, could, in the future, be right for promotion. Ability to type accurately, bright personalities and willingness to work hard under pressure are the main qualifications from the four people we need.

Hours 9.30-6.00 and a starting salary of around £2,700 according to experience.

Applicants should send curriculum vitae and a recent photograph immediately to Chuo Senko U.K. Limited, Sixth Floor, 199 Knightsbridge, London SW7 (Telephone applications will not be accepted. If there are any companies to whom your application should not be forwarded please detail in a separate letter).

SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

BILINGUAL ENGLISH/GERMAN

We are an International Trading Organization Steel Import-Export requiring a first class experienced Secretary. The position offers the opportunity to work independently on own initiative, compose own correspondence, etc. Age 25-35 years. Salary negotiable around £3,500. Please apply in writing with full details of experience to:

Export Union Duesseldorf GMBH, London Branch,
6 Queen St., Mayfair, London W1X 7PH.

Money Minded Secretary

Leading international money brokers need a first-class secretary to handle three senior directors. Interesting work and excellent salary for the right person who must combine most virtues: initiative, enthusiasm, reliability, sense of humour, and a proactive personality. Existing holiday arrangements, pension, and attractive motor car in the City.

RING ANGELA THOMSON 01-236 3161.

SECRETARIES £2,950-£3,300

Reuters, the international news organisation that supplies news and information services to the media and business communities throughout the world has the following vacancies for experienced shorthand secretaries -

Secretary to Pension Manager - mature candidates preferred, aged 40 to 45.
Secretary to European Sales Manager - aged 21+, knowledge of German an advantage.
Secretary to Financial Manager - Europe - aged 21+, some light work and schedule flexibility.
Secretary to Staff Department - aged 20+.
Hours of work are 9.30 to 5.30. Subsidised staff restaurant, 4 weeks holiday a year. For further details, please contact Mrs J. Lorton, Reuters, 85 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3AJ. Tel. 01-353 6060, ext. 262.

SECRETARY

International Architectural Partnership requires a Secretary with impeccable skill and amiable disposition to work in their busy West End office. The work is interesting and responsible. IBM Executive typewriter, 3 weeks holiday, L.V.S. Life Assurance and pension scheme. Salary £3,000 negotiable.

Please apply to Hazel Brown, Gollins Melvin Ward Partnership, 18 Manchester Square, W1M 8AY. Telephone 01-486 6655.

SALES STAFF CRUISE SHIPS CARIBBEAN

International Company with 600 ships in 100 ports and 100,000 passengers. We are looking for young, energetic, and ambitious sales staff to sell cruise holidays in the Caribbean and the South Pacific. The successful candidate will be given a comprehensive training course and a competitive salary. For full details and application form, please write to: INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS TO: MISS MOORE, 01-229 0078.

£4,500 PLUS PROFIT SHARE

Executive to help run up-market Secretarial Agency

We are looking for a dynamic person to join a well-established agency in the West End, servicing leading companies. Personable, experienced, desirable. Attractive prospects. Full details to:-

J. R. V. COULTS,
7 WINE OFFICE COURT, LONDON, E.C.4.
01-353 1858.

PA/Secretary Waterloo

For the Manager of TDC circa £3,400

TDC is Technical Development Capital Ltd., and is a subsidiary of the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation. It exists to help create businesses in the U.K. by financing high risk projects.

We are looking for a Secretary to perform the usual secretarial duties for the Manager and two Executives in TDC and he/she will also administer the smooth running of the office and an Award Scheme, together with liaising with European institutions.

This is a demanding job in a stimulating atmosphere and candidates should have at least an "O" level standard of education with a formal secretarial training and experience of working at a senior level. Hours are 9.30 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. Free lunch. Possible mortgage assistance, 4 weeks' holidays. Application forms from Helen Hadley, ICFC, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XP, or telephone 01-928 7822.

Managing Director

requires a

PERSONAL SECRETARY

for interesting and varied work in a major shipping agency. The successful candidate will be a mature, personable, initiative as well as a secretarial skills required. Commencing salary £3,000 per annum plus excellent fringe benefits.

Please write with details of experience to MORFLOT INTERNATIONAL LINER AGENCY LTD., British Union House, 25 Bucklebury, London EC4.

SECRETARY

for Group Financial Director Strand - c. £3,250. This is a senior secretarial post located at the H.O. of a large publicly quoted engineering group.

Ability to organise and use own initiative is essential, combined with high standard secretarial skills. Excellent working conditions, 4 weeks annual holiday. Please write or telephone in strict confidence, quoting Ref. S127 to Chris Stanton, BECKWELL, 84-86 Baker Street, London W1M 1DT, Tel. 01-497 5781.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

for an International Professional Women's Organisation. Good knowledge of Spanish essential. Interesting and varied duties including computer work. Ideal opportunity for young graduate or similar seeking career or administration. Salary commencing £2,925 at 21. Telephone for interview 01-434 4550.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

requires PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Salary £3,500 with prospects. Interesting work and pleasant offices in Mayfair. Write giving curriculum vitae to: BOX 0520 J, THE TIMES

مكازم الناصر



All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

Coty

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